

Spontaneous Subcapsular Renal Haematoma in Adolescents: Report of Two Cases

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Abstract

Introduction: Spontaneous subcapsular renal hematoma in adolescence is a rare. The pathological finding is bleeding between the parenchyma and the intact kidney capsule. There is no history of trauma, blood or blood vessel diseases, or taking anticoagulant therapy.

Case Presentation:

Patient 1: Twelve year old girl suffered a pain in the right lumbar region. The ultrasonographic examination revealed 10 mm subcapsular hematoma on the right kidney, the left one was normal. The trauma and other diseases were excluded as the cause of bleeding. Haematoma decreased in next few months and was completely absorbed after six months. Eight years follow up presented excellent genetal condition.

Patient 2: Fifteen years old boy was experienced a sudden very severe pain in the left lumbar region at rest time. He was admitted at emergency department and renal sonography revealed 20 mm subcapsular bleeding on the left kidney, the right one was as normal as other organs in abdominal compartment. Next month haematoma increased up to 25 mm. Trauma was excluded as a cause. Laboratory screening, CT and MR imaging didn't find the cause of haemorrhage. Therapy were "bed and rest" and antibiotic four weeks. Resorption of hematoma was very slow in next months and after a year it completely disappeared. Ten years later all morphological and biochemical tests of the both kidney are satisfied.

Conclusion: A conservative treatment should be preferred in the adolescent period for spontaneous subcapsular renal hematoma. Parents and patients are advised to continue regular monitoring of kidney status and function, general condition and arterial pressure.

Keywords: subcapsular renal hematoma, spontaneous, adolescent, conservative approach

INTRODUCTION

Spontaneous subcapsular renal hematoma (SSRH) presents a rare finding in clinical urology practice, particularly among the adolescents. Patients had no history of trauma. The onset of sudden different grade flank pain could be the first sign. Etiology investigation

sometimes presents diagnostically challenge but can be solved by advances imaging modalities (1). Therapeutic approach depends on the diagnosis: conservative treatment if the etiology is benign or not clear, and surgical if any renal neoplastic lesion is suspected (2,3)

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Here we report two cases of SSRH in adolescent period of age proved to be spontaneous renal subcapsular hematoma, and conservative clinical approach with good outcome.

CASE PRESENTATION

Case 1

Twelve years old previously perfect health girl suffered a sudden right flank pain. The abdominal ultrasonographic examination registered 10 mm subcapsular hematoma on the right kidney (Fig. 1), normal left kidney and not any lymph abdominal nodes. External trauma and other diseases were excluded as the cause of bleeding after laboratory tests and CT scan. Physical examination, except mild tenderness in the right flank, was normal. "Bed and rest" and antibiotic therapy were applied for the first two weeks. She normally attended the school lessons but was released of calisthenics one year. Few months follow-up by renal ultrasonography revealed gradually reducing of haematoma and completely absorption after six months. Eight years follow up biochemistry, renal sonography and general condition of the patient were excellent.



Fig 1. Ultrasonography aspect of subcapsular renal haematoma.

Case 2

Fifteen year old boy suddenly suffered a great pain in the left lumbar region at rest time. He was immediately admitted to hospital. The abdominal ultrasonographic

examination showed SSRH 20 mm on the left. Tenderness of left lumbar region was present in physical examination. The complete laboratory tests were normal. CT scan confirmed a fresh haemorrhage surrounding the renal tissue, and excluded malignancy or other parenchyma lesions (Fig.2). Despite the advanced imaging the cause of haemorrhage haven't been found. General condition and arterial pressure were normal. Symptomatic treatment including analgetic plus antibiotic started. On repeated CT scan after three weeks extension of haematoma increased up to 25 mm and pressure of the renal parenchyma were noticed (Fig. 2). CT scan with contrast media and MRI digital angiography showed chronic features of haemorrhage in subcapsular blood accumulation and good renal excretion. Malignant lesion and vascular diseases were excluded and it was a reason we continue conservative treatment. Resolution started slowly. After a year the haematoma completely disappeared. Next ten years he underwent general urology examination yearly: ultrasonography investigation, arterial blood pressure analysis of renal function and biochemistry of urine were normal.

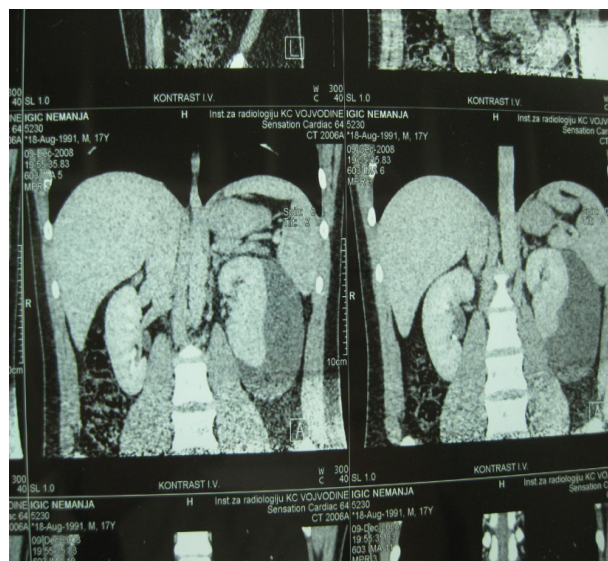


Fig 2. Co-axial abdominal CT showed subcapsular hematoma over the lateral aspect of the right kidney.

DISCUSSION

Spontaneous rupture or renal parenchyma have been first reported by T. Bonet, 1679 (4). But Carl Reinhold August Wunderlich, 1856 first described and published the clinical picture of spontaneous renal bleeding with accumulation of blood into the subcapsular and

perinephric spaces with suspicion of the presence of an underlying malignancy (5). Sudden and very painful onset with manifestation of hypovolemic shock is named after the German physician Wunderlich Syndrome. In literature presentation of acute flank pain, tenderness and symptoms of internal bleeding is also known as "Lenk's triad" (6).

A few series and case reports were published since then (7, 8, 9). According to meta-analysis done by Zhang et al. (9) in 61.5% cases haematoma were due to tumors (31.5 malignant and 29.7% benign), angiomyolipoma being the most benign neoplasm (10,11), 17% cases were due to vascular disease, and some were due to infection (7,8). A cases of SSRH following aspirin treatment has been reported (12,13). Also it has been reported secondary to chronic haemodialysis patients (14). In 5-15% of cases the cause can not be found (15.).

In literature SSRH is described as a spontaneous nontraumatic renal bleeding into space between renal parenchyma and intact its capsule causing different degree of compression to the renal parenchyma. Sometimes haemorrhage is notice even in perinephric space (10). The absence of trauma was reported in all patients. Both our patients denied trauma but despite no evidence of recent trauma clinicians not to neglect that renal injury would developed due to increased intra-abdominal and retro-peritoneal pressure during sport activity particularly in adolescent population (16).

Clinical manifestations can varied and be presented with non-specific symptoms and signs (10) usually depending on the degree of the haemorrhage. In general, sudden onset of acute lumbar pain, nausea and vomiting and signs of hypovolaemic shock should be the initial in history. Sometimes abdominal pain and clinical finding could mimic appendicitis (17). Physical examination usually reveal tenderness of lumbar region, palpable flank mass if the kidney tumor is presented, or could be normal. The clinical presentation of these patients may very depending on the degree and duration of bleeding.

In basic laboratory screening haematuria and decreased haemoglobin could be common findings. Coagulation study is necessary. Urinalysis and renal biochemistry could be normal. Ultrasonography

or other modern modalities have to be involved in searching the etiology - ultrasonography initially revealed renal mass or degree of subcapsular haemorrhage on one side, normal opposite kidney, and of lymph nodes if they are enlarged.

If the diagnosis is a dilemma CT scan, MRI digital subtraction angiography helps in diagnostic and therapeutic management (18). CT is useful technique for evaluation the extension of the haematoma and identified the cause and rescanning in follow up is advised. MRI may help in cases when CT scan is contraindicated or if the small tumour is suspected. Selective renal angiography has been advised when vascular lesions are suspected (19). In our first case ultrasonography was diagnostic and follow up modality. In second case CT scan and MRI were used to determine the extension of hematoma but cause was not identified.

In the past time, renal tumour was thought to be the cause of SSRH and radical nephrectomy was advised (20,21). In hemodynamically unstable patients with life-threatening haemorrhage emergent nephrectomy was always required.

Today with better resolution of imaging modalities many authors advise the therapeutic approach depending on the diagnosis because kidney can be salvaged. (2,22,23,24,25). The appropriate treatment depends on the accuracy of diagnosis and determination of its cause. When malignancy as cause is excluded, the haemorrhage is self-limiting and the patient is responsive to fluid resuscitation, the patient can be managed conservatively correlated with symptoms (18). Renal arteriography and selective embolisation may benefit in haemodynamically stable patients to control the bleeding and avoid surgery. Treatment with percutaneous drainage and urokinase injection (2) could be recommended.

In some cases the new imaging modalities an laboratory screening failed to demonstrate the etiology of SSRH and therapeutic dilemma for urologist exists as in our two cases. Aware of long life need kidneys at adolescents we decided to choose conservative treatment for our patients. The decision was support with absence of malignancy or other diseases. It was a great responsibility in Case 2 but we are satisfied with good outcome in long follow up.

CONCLUSION

Spontaneous subcapsular renal haematoma in adolescent period could be a difficult diagnostic and therapeutic task to urologist approaching to the list of etiology for they need their kidneys for very long time. With no known cause of SSRH in adolescent age and stable general condition we suggest conservative approach and long regular follow up.

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