

Renal carcinoma complicating autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease

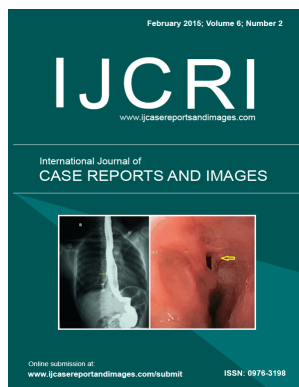
Francisco Rivera, Celia López Redondo

ABSTRACT

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CASE REPORT

On February 2013, a 76-year-old male was sent to our nephrology unit to evaluate renal disease. He was asymptomatic and had been diagnosed with hypertension, overweight, benign prostatic hypertrophy and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease several years ago. His one daughter was also diagnosed with a renal cyst. His serum creatinine was 1.6 mg/dL, eGFR 42 mL/min, albumin/creatinine ratio in spot urine sample 2.8 mg/g and normal urinary sediment. Ultrasonography showed a slight enlargement of both kidneys and the presence of multiple bilateral cysts, predominantly with cortical distribution, classified as Bosniak I. No complex cysts that required monitoring or solid lesions were found (Figure 1). Therefore, he was diagnosed with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) and follow-up was drawn. He was successfully treated with losartan 50 mg/day. On July 2014, a new ultrasound control revealed the appearance of an echogenic nodule on the upper pole of the right kidney with vascularization in Doppler mode (Figure 2). The study was completed by computed tomography scan that confirmed the presence of a solid nodule of 23 mm on the right kidney with early contrast enhancement after i.v. iodine contrast administration. These findings strongly suggested the existence of superimposed renal cell carcinoma (RCC) (Figure 3). Considering his age and co-morbidities conservative treatment was planned.



Figure 1: Ultrasound image of right kidney showing multiple cysts with cortical distribution, classified as Bosniak I.

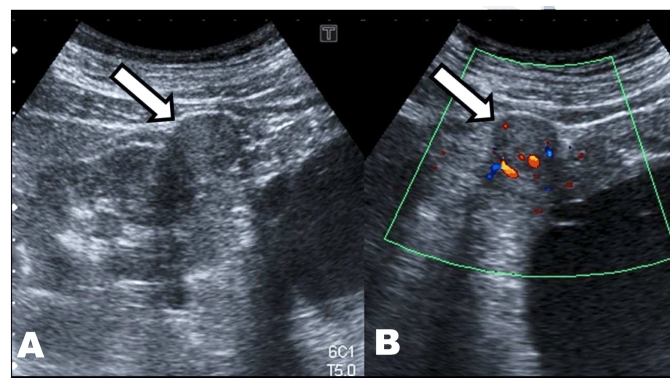


Figure 2: Ultrasound image of the upper pole of right kidney. (A) B-mode image with an echogenic nodule, with rounded morphology (white arrow), (B) Doppler mode reveals the presence of vascularization in this nodule (white arrow).

Francisco Rivera¹, Celia López Redondo²

Affiliations: ¹Department of Nephrology, Hospital General Universitario de Ciudad Real, Spain; ²Department of Radiology, Hospital Santa Bárbara, Puertollano, Ciudad Real, Spain.

Corresponding Author: Francisco Rivera, Nephrology Unit, Hospital General Universitario de Ciudad Real, Spain; Email: friverahdez@senefro.org

Received: 08 November 2014

Accepted: 02 December 2014

Published: 01 February 2015

DISCUSSION

The association between RCC and ADPKD has been described although this association has raised some controversy. While several case reports of RCC complicating ADPKD have been described and it has been found premalignant epithelial cells in the cyst epithelia, epidemiologic and autopsy studies have not shown a significant higher incidence of RCC in ADPKD [1, 2].

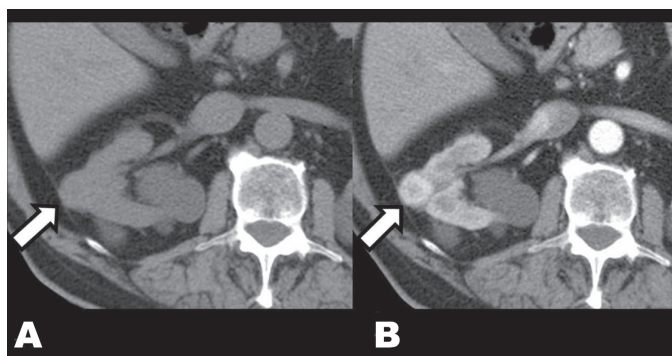


Figure 3: (A) Computed tomography scan showing without intravenous contrast: exophytic isodense nodule compared to the rest of the renal parenchyma (white arrow), (B) Computed tomography scan in arterial phase after the administration of intravenous contrast: early enhancement predominates at the periphery of the nodule (white arrow).

On the other hand, more recent studies have described that kidney-related prevalence of RCC in patients with ADPKD and advanced chronic renal failure treated by hemodialysis or renal transplantation was high [3, 4]. These apparent discrepancies could be explained by the difficulties in the diagnosis of RCC in this setting and emphasizes the importance of close clinical surveillance and the interpretation of several radiological studies such ultrasonography, CT scan and MRI scan [5, 6].

Herein, we report a case of RCC complicating ADPKD who has several characteristics. Firstly, he did have neither hematuria nor symptoms of occult neoplasia. Secondly, renal function was decreased although dialysis was not needed. Finally, the combination of ultrasonography and unenhanced and contrast-enhanced CT scan studies were able to achieve a diagnosis without using RMI, as it has been recently recommended.

CONCLUSION

Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) can appear as a complication of autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD). The diagnosis of RCC in this setting needs a thoroughly radiological evaluation, which should include ultrasonography and computed tomography scan studies.

How to cite this article

Rivera F, Redondo CL. Renal carcinoma complicating autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease. *Int J Case Rep Images* 2015;6(2):115–117.

Author Contributions

Francisco Rivera – Substantial contributions to conception and design, Acquisition of data, Analysis and interpretation of data, Drafting the article, Revising it critically for important intellectual content, Final approval of the version to be published

Celia López Redondo – Substantial contributions to conception and design, Acquisition of data, Analysis and interpretation of data, Drafting the article, Revising it critically for important intellectual content, Final approval of the version to be published

Guarantor

The corresponding author is the guarantor of submission.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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doi:10.5348/ijcri-201504-CL-10059

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Article citation: Rivera F, Redondo CL. Renal carcinoma complicating autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease. Int J Case Rep Images 2015;6(2):115–117.



Francisco Rivera is Nephrologist at Hospital General Universitario de Ciudad Real (Spain). He earned undergraduate and postgraduate degrees of Medicine from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain). He has published more than 200 research papers in national and international academic journals and authored 70 chapters. His research interests include autoimmune primary and secondary renal diseases and chronic renal failure.



Dra Celia López Redondo is Radiologist at Hospital Santa Bárbara in Puertollano (Spain). She earned undergraduate and postgraduate degrees of Medicine from Universidad de Córdoba (Spain). She completed her specialty few months ago. She has published some research papers in national and international academic journals. Her research interests include oncology and abdominal radiology.

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