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ASYMPTOMATIC "GIANT" PHEOCHROMOCYTOMA DISCOVERED AS ADRENAL INCIDENTALOMA-CASE REPORT AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Danijela Radojković[1,2], Milan Radojković[1,3]

[1]University of Niš, Facultyof medicine, Niš, Serbia
[2]Clinic of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders, Clinical Centre Niš, Niš, Serbia
[3]Surgery Clinic, Clinical Centre Niš, Niš, Serbia

Contact: Danijela Radojković
Sestre Baković 14/28, 18000 Niš, Serbia
E-mail: dr.danijela3@gmail.com

Adrenal gland tumours, revealed during radiological procedures in patients without pre-vious suspicion for adrenal disease, are known as adrenal incidentalomas (AI). Asymptomatic pheochromocytoma-incidentaloma is usually smaller than 10 mm. Incidentally found large pheochromocytoma without any clinical signs is the rarity.

Herein, a young woman is presented, with a tumour in the right adrenal gland, size 60x70 mm, discovered on the abdominal sonogram, performed during a regular systematic examination. Computed tomography confirmed "giant" tumour, size 70x74 mm, with cystic and necrotic areas and inhomogeneous contrast captivity. Besides discrete elevated vanillymandelic acid (VMA) level in 24 hours dieresis, all the results of the endocrine evaluation were in normal range. The patient underwent [131I]-meta-iodobenzylguanidine ([131I]-MIBG) scintigraphy which was indicative for right pheochromocytoma. After adequate preoperative preparation, right adrenalectomy was performed. The procedure and postoperative course went without complications, and pheochromocytoma was confirmed by histopathological examination.

It appears that frequency of AI is constantly rising in the last few decades, thanks to widely used radiological diagnostic techniques. Even though the most of AI are nonfunctional, we should always keep in mind that under clinical "mute" adrenal tumours, malignant or secreting lesions could hide. A thorough examination of each incidentally revealed adrenal mass can prevent potential oversight and provide proper treatment.

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