Pediatr Radiol (2008) 38:592
DOI 10.1007/s00247-007-0717-5

CLINICAL IMAGE

Abdominal paraganglioma in a pediatric patient

Omolola M. Atalabi · Edward Y. Lee

Received: 11 October 2007 / Revised: 14 November 2007 / Accepted: 27 November 2007 / Published online: 10 January 2008

A 9-year-old boy presented with abdominal pain. Abdominal US showed a large cystic mass measuring 13.4 × 6.8 cm associated with several peripheral solid nodules (*M*) (Fig. 1, *arrows*). CT confirmed the large cystic abdominal mass (*M*) (Fig. 2) with an enhancing nodular periphery (arrows). Surgical pathology showed cystic paraganglioma.

Paraganglioma is a rare neuroendocrine neoplasm arising from the paraganglionic cells found in various anatomic locations [1, 2]. As a result of excess secretion of catecholamine, patients with a functioning paraganglioma commonly present with palpitations, headache, sweating, and hypertension [1, 2]. In contrast, patients with a nonfunctioning paraganglioma typically present with an enlarging palpable mass or associated pain, as in this patient [2]. Although complete surgical resection usually results in a cure, approximately 20–42% of paragangliomas can metastasize to regional lymph nodes, bone, liver, and lungs [1, 2]. On imaging, paragangliomas are usually large (>3 cm) and hypervascular, and they often demonstrate extensive internal cystic degeneration [1, 2].

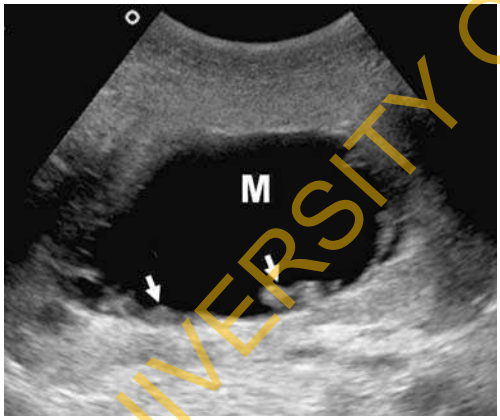

Fig. 1 Transverse abdominal US image

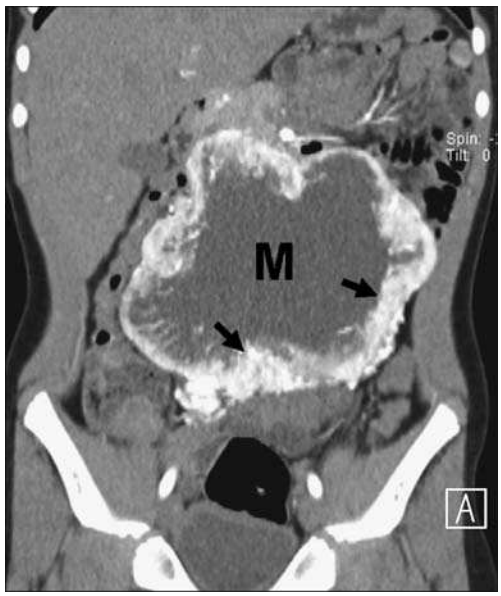

Fig. 2 Coronal reformatted CT image

O. M. Atalabi
College of Medicine, University of Ibadan
and University College Hospital Ibadan,
Ibadan, Nigeria

E. Y. Lee (✉)
Department of Radiology and Department of Medicine,
Pulmonary Division, Children's Hospital
Boston and Harvard Medical School,
300 Longwood Ave., Boston, MA 02115, USA
e-mail: Edward.Lee@childrens.harvard.edu

References

1. Rha SE, Byun JY, Jung SE et al (2003) Neurogenic tumors in the abdomen: tumor types and imaging characteristics. Radiographics 23:29–43
2. Lee KY, Oh YW, Noh HJ et al (2005) Extraadrenal paragangliomas of the body: imaging features. AJR 187:492–504