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Squamous Cell Carcinoma Arising in an Ovarian Mature Cystic Teratoma: A Case Report and Review of the Literature

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Abstract

Introduction:

Malignant transformation of a mature cystic teratoma is a rare complication, accounting for 0.2–2% of cases. Squamous cell carcinoma is the most common histological type. This transformation mainly occurs in postmenopausal women and is associated with a poor prognosis when diagnosis is delayed.

Case Report:

We report the case of a 77-year-old patient presenting with a complex adnexal mass revealed by chronic pelvic pain. An initial right adnexectomy revealed a malignant mature cystic teratoma. A second surgical procedure including total hysterectomy, left adnexectomy, and omentectomy revealed a squamous cell carcinoma arising in a teratoma with omental invasion. The tumor was classified as FIGO stage IIIB. The patient received five cycles of platinum-based chemotherapy combined with bevacizumab. The outcome was unfavorable, marked by death following a massive pulmonary embolism during intensive care admission.

Conclusion:

This case highlights the diagnostic and therapeutic challenges of malignant transformation of mature cystic teratomas, which are rare but aggressive entities requiring multidisciplinary management. Molecular sequencing may offer new therapeutic perspectives.

Keywords:

Mature cystic teratoma – Malignant transformation – Squamous cell carcinoma – Ovarian tumor – Bevacizumab – FIGO IIIB