ACTA RADIOLÓGICA PORTUGUESA
September-December 2023 | Vol 35 nº 3 | 29-30
https://doi.org/10.25748/arp.28349

Images of Interest / Imagens de Interesse

Retropubic Cartilaginous Cyst: A Rare Entity

Quisto Retropúbico: Uma Entidade Rara

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Received: 27/10/2022
Accepted: 13/03/2023
Published: 29/12/2023

Abstract

A pubic cartilaginous cyst is a rare, benign, slow-growing degenerative lesion arising from the fibrocartilaginous part of the pubic symphysis joint usually occurring in post-menopausal women. It should be considered in the differential diagnosis of pubic and vulvar cystic masses.
Since it is an uncommon lesion, especially in men, it can be easily misdiagnosed. Magnetic Resonance imaging is the investigation of choice for this condition.
We report a case of a retropubic cyst incidentally detected in a 57-year-old male patient who performed a hip Magnetic Resonance imaging.

Keywords

Magnetic resonance imaging; Retropubic cyst; Pubic symphysis.

Resumo

Um quisto púbico cartilaginoso é uma lesão degenerativa rara e benigna que tem origem na fibrocartilagem da sínfise púbica. Habitualmente, tende a ocorrer em mulheres pós-menopausa e deve ser considerado no diagnóstico diferencial de massas quísticas púbicas e vulvares.
Tratando-se de uma lesão incomum, excecionalmente rara em homens, pode estar associada a erros diagnósticos, sendo a Ressonância Magnética (RM) a modalidade de imagem de eleição para a melhor caracterização.
Apresentamos um caso de um quisto retropúbico detetado incidentalmente numa Ressonância Magnética da anca num homem de 57 anos.

Palavras-chave

Ressonância magnética; Quisto retropúbico; Sínfise púbica.

Case

We present a case of a 57-year-old male, previous athlete, who was referred to our Radiology Department to perform a left hip MRI to further study a femoroacetabular impingement previously diagnosed on conventional radiography.
As an incidental finding, a well-defined mass measuring 22x18x21 mm was detected, arising from the symphysis pubis joint space and projecting into its posterosuperior side. It demonstrated high signal intensity (SI) on Proton Density sequences, heterogeneous high SI on STIR-weighted sequences and low SI on T1-weighted sequences. No signal abnormality was seen in the adjacent pubic bone marrow or in the surrounding tissues. The lesion abuts the prostate but without causing compression of the gland (Fig. 1).

Discussion

Retropubic cysts are rare benign lesions, much more common in women due to its association with pregnancy, vaginal delivery and pelvic trauma.[1,2] In fact, our case appears to be one of the few reported cases in male patients.
The pubic symphysis joint is composed by a fibrocartilaginous disc. Retropubic cysts consist of a collagenous capsule containing fibrocartilaginous tissue with extensive mucinous cystic degeneration as a result of repeated mechanical

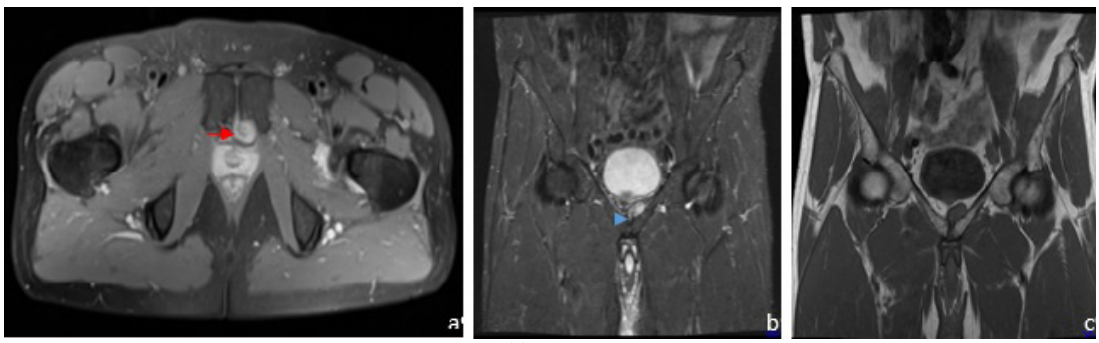


Figure 1 – PD-weighted MR image in axial plane (a) and STIR-weighted MR image in coronal (b) plane showing a well-defined hyperintense lesion (red arrow) in the space of Retzius, abbuting the prostate gland and in contiguity with the symphyseal cartilage with a connecting stalk (blue arrowhead). T1-weighted MR image (c) shows the lesion as isointense to muscle and in contiguity with the symphyseal cartilage.

stress.[1,2,3] They are also called supra- or subpubic cysts depending on their relationship to the pubic symphysis.[1]

Retropubic cysts are primarily located in the space of Retzius between the anteroinferior bladder wall and pubic symphysis and are asymptomatic in the early stages.[1] As they grow in size, they may produce symptoms according to their location by compressing adjacent structures.[1,2]

They appear hypo- to iso-intense on T1-weighted imaging and hyperintense on T2. Smooth rim enhancement may be seen post-contrast images.[1]

MRI demonstrates the cystic nature of the lesion and its origin from the symphysis pubis allowing differential diagnosis from other entities such as Bartholin's or Gartner duct cysts specially in symptomatic patients.[1,2] It may also be an incidental finding such as in our case, revealing particular value in cases of oncologic surveillance, making distinction of metastatic disease crucial.[1,2]

As these lesions are benign, patient management should be guided by patient's symptoms. Surgical resection may be an option for symptomatic patients.[1,2]

In conclusion, pubic cartilaginous cysts are slow-growing degenerative lesions, more common in post-menopausal women but that may also occur in men.[1,2] Its MRI characteristics and origin from the pubic symphysis allow a confident diagnosis and proper patient management.[1,2,3]

Ethical Disclosures / Divulgações Éticas

Conflicts of interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Conflitos de interesse: Os autores declaram não possuir conflitos de interesse.

Financing Support: This work has not received any contribution, grant or scholarship.

Suporte financeiro: O presente trabalho não foi suportado por nenhum subsídio ou bolsa.

Confidentiality of data: The authors declare that they have followed the protocols of their work center on the publication of data from patients.

Confidencialidade dos dados: Os autores declaram ter seguido os protocolos do seu centro de trabalho acerca da publicação dos dados de doentes.

Protection of human and animal subjects: The authors declare that the procedures followed were in accordance with the regulations of the relevant clinical research ethics committee and with those of the Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki).

Protecção de pessoas e animais: Os autores declaram que os procedimentos seguidos estavam de acordo com os regulamentos estabelecidos pelos responsáveis da Comissão de Investigação Clínica e Ética e de acordo com a Declaração de Helsínquia da Associação Médica Mundial.

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