

Intravesical human papillomavirus (IHPV) infection—endoscopic resection

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INTRODUCTION

Although HPV infections are common, intravesical HPV is a rare condition, with only 20 reported cases (1).

Objectives: The aim of this video is to present a case treated with transurethral resection (TR).

RESULTS

A 38-year-old woman, with a history of urinary tract infections. She denied other diseases and complained of painful urination. The genital examination, cervical cytology and colposcopy were normal. Urinalysis showed leukocytosis, but a negative culture. The ultrasound was normal. A cystoscopy was performed, showing polypoid growth on the bladder mucosa followed of the TR. Histopathologic analysis (HA) confirmed IHPV (in situ hybridization positive for 6, 18, 31 subtypes), associated a Bladder Squamous Metaplasia (BSM). The patient recurrence-free was for 5 years when a cystoscopy demonstrated BSM, which was resected. The patient had not any other sites (urethral, genital or anal) of recurrence during the period of follow-up.

DISCUSSION

The condyloma, caused by types 6 and 11, is more frequent in the genital mucosa and anal area (1, 2). IHPV presents with a polypoid pattern, often related to warts in the urethra. The clinical presentation includes hematuria, dysuria, fever and pelvic pain (1, 2). HA evaluation shows hyperproliferation of metaplasic squamous cells, the transition to the normal epithelium is sudden, with no submucosal invasion. This pattern excludes squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). A standard treatment was not established. TR has also been successfully used (1), and radical cystectomy was indicated when the lesion was associated with SCC (3). Since the cytotoxic immune responses against malignant and virally transformed cells appear to be similar, local application of BCG might also be effective in the adjuvant treatment of recurrent condylomata (4).

CONCLUSIONS

TR may be a safe option for definitive IHPV treatment. However, the patients must be followed as in cases of the superficial carcinoma of transitional epithelium.

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ARTICLE INFO

Available at: ARTICLE INFO Available at: http://http://www.intbrazjurol.com.br/video-section/almeida_395_396/ Int Braz J Urol. 2016; 42 (Video #3): 395-6

Submitted for publication: January 10, 2015

Accepted after revision: July 12, 2015

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

This interesting video by Almieda and colleagues highlights a rare occurrence of HPV infection within the bladder mucosa diagnosed after transurethral resection. It further characterizes the diffuse nature of HPV-associated manifestations, which can cause cancer at multiple anatomic sites in men and women, including cervical, oropharyngeal, anal, vuluvar, vaginal, and

penile malignancies. In this particularly case, the patient remained recurrence-free for 5 years, which reinforces the heterogeneity of HPV-associated disease and its malignant potential based on the anatomic site of infection (1). We applaud the authors for their novel work, which adds to the body of literature regarding potential sites of HPV-related disease and its differing natural history based on the site of infection.

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