Rhabdomyosarcoma of the heart

M. RAMU
M.B.B.S., Ph.D.

Government Medical Laboratory, 33A North Street, Kingston, Jamaica

Summary
A case of rhabdomyosarcoma of the heart is described, which is one of the rare primary tumours of the heart documented in the literature. The presenting post-mortem appearances were noted.

Introduction
Although a rhabdomyosarcoma (Anderson, 1971) is among the common malignant tumours of the soft parts of the body, it is a rare primary tumour of the heart.

Case report
An 81-year-old male was brought to the Casualty Department, Kingston Public Hospital, Jamaica, and was pronounced dead on arrival. According to the relative, the main complaint of the deceased had been, for some time, recurrent abdominal pain and loss of weight.

External examination revealed the deceased to be moderately built and emaciated. There was no clubbing of the fingers or evidence of external injury or violence. There was marked cyanosis. Internal examination showed the lungs to be congested and oedematous and there were signs of chronic bronchitis with emphysema. The pericardium and mediastinal glands were normal.

The heart weighed 300 g and the valves were healthy. The coronary arteries were patent but showed arteriosclerotic changes. Marked arteriosclerotic changes were also seen in all the major blood-vessels. There was a bulging mass, yellowish white in colour, in the upper end of the anterior wall of the left ventricle (nearer to the mitral valve). It was a non-polypoid mass measuring $2 \times 1.5 \times 1$ cm and growing from the myocardium and partially filling the left ventricular cavity. The base of the tumour involved the anterior wall of the left ventricle. Microscopically, HE-stained sections showed a fairly cellular tumour extensively infiltrating the heart muscle. The cells were arranged diffusely in some areas and in others were separated by connective tissue septa giving an alveolar pattern. The tumour cells irregularly lined the 'alveoli' with some cells lying free in the lumina (Fig. 1). The cells were round with abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm and

![Fig. 1. HE-stained section of the tumour, showing extensive infiltration of the heart muscle.](image-url)
Fig. 2. HE-stained section showing multinucleated cells and some strap cells.

Fig. 3. PTAH-stained section showing some striated cells.

some cells had vacuolated cytoplasm. Multinucleated giant cells could be seen. Strap cells were seen in some areas (Fig. 2). There were also a few mitotic areas. PTAH-stained sections revealed some striated cells (Fig. 3).

Discussion and conclusion

Prichard (1951) was of the opinion that the status of this tumour had not yet been established. Straus and Merliss (1945) reviewed the world literature on primary tumours of the heart and concluded that the incidence of this condition was 0.19%. Gould (1968), mentioning the variation in the incidence of primary cardiac tumours, listed various types of which only seven cases were primary tumours of the heart and only one case of rhabdomyosarcoma. The most recent review, which is the one for the years 1951–1973 by Hardin et al. (1974) was of seventeen patients with primary cardiac tumours, of which one was a case of rhabdomyosarcoma.

As a rule, primary tumours of the heart are very
Case reports

Aplasia of the right lung and calcifying epithelioma in association with Goldenhar's syndrome

M. M. Kenawi*  
M.Ch., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.S.

J. A. S. Dickson  
F.R.C.S. Ed., F.R.C.S.

*The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, and Department of Paediatric Surgery, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH

Summary

A case of Goldenhar's syndrome (oculoauriculo-vertebral dysplasia) with the rare association of aplasia of one lung is presented with a discussion of the clinical findings and the aetiology. The major abnormalities, pulmonary, renal and the undergrowth of the jaw were all right-sided, confirming previous reports. This child developed a calcifying epithelioma and this is cited as support for the theory of the origin of these lesions from epidermoid cysts.

Introduction

Goldenhar's syndrome (1952) or oculoauriculo-vertebral dysplasia is a complex syndrome with ocular, auricular, oral and musculoskeletal features (Magalini, 1971). Cardiac anomalies occur occasionally but aplasia of the lung has been reported only once before (Gorlin et al., 1963). Although epibulbar dermoid cysts are frequent, this is the first reported association with a calcifying epithelioma of Malherbe.

* Present address: Cardiothoracic Surgery Registrar, The London Chest Hospital, Bonner Road, London E2 9JX.

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M. Ramu

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