Nabothian cysts, also known as retention cysts of the uterine cervix, are collections of retained mucus at the uterine cervix. It is thought to be a reminiscent of chronic cervicitis. They are highly prevalent. They are usually asymptomatic, discovered incidentally during gynaecological examination or imagiologic studies of the female pelvis, such as ultrasound, TC or MRI. Nabothian cysts are usually small, with an average size of 2 – 10 mm but there are anecdotal reports of cysts with up to 80 mm. At ultrasound they appear as anecoid cystic formations inside the cervical tissue. When detected in imaging, the main differential diagnoses are myometrial cysts, vascular structures, adnexal masses or malignancy. They are benign and require no treatment.

Tunnel clusters are one specific type of Nabothian cysts. These are multilocular lesions of the cervix, present in 8 percent of female in reproductive age, usually appearing in women with previous vaginal deliveries. They may be non cystic (type A) or cystic (type B). They are no more than a benign group of dilated endocervical glands. Usually these clusters are smaller than 20 mm and have few loci.

The authors report a case of a 56-year-old post menopausal woman, nulligravida, in whom a complex pelvic mass with 53x43 mm was incidentally detected during a CT exam, initially interpreted as an adnexal mass. At ultrasound there was a big cystic tunnel cluster (type B) of the cervix, with more than 12 loci, the largest with 26 mm, with no vascularisation, occupying the whole cervix, with a multilocular pattern at 3-dimensional ultrasound.

Abstract

Nabothian cysts are retention cysts of the uterine cervix, which rarely may appear as multilocular large lesions called tunnel cluster. The authors report a case of a complex pelvic mass with 53x43 mm incidentally detected during a CT exam, initially interpreted as an adnexal mass. At ultrasound there was a big cystic tunnel cluster (type B) of the cervix, with more than 12 loci, the largest with 26 mm, with no vascularisation, occupying the whole cervix, with a multilocular pattern at 3-dimensional ultrasound.

Keywords: Cervix Uteri; Nabothian cyst; Tunnel Cluster; Ultrasonography.

FIGURE 1. CT scan showing a complex pelvic mass with 53x43 mm. US Scan revealing a big cervical tunnel cluster.
with no vascularisation, occupying the whole cervix (Figure 1). 3-dimensional ultrasound showed a multilocular pattern (Figure 2). Even though all findings suggested a cervical tunnel cluster – a benign condition – a biopsy was undertaken revealing a cyst with an uniform flattened mucinous epithelium without atypia. Given patient’s history of gastric cancer, regular follow-up with 6 months ultrasound and annual pap smear was adopted.

This case of a large cystic tunnel cluster (type B) of the cervix with several lobules in a nulligravida, incidentally discovered by CT scan and confirmed by transvaginal ultrasound.

REFERENCES