**CASE REPORT**

**Case Report: Testicular artery pseudoaneurysm [version 2; peer review: 1 approved, 2 approved with reservations]**

William P Parker, Ajay K Nangia

Department of Urology, The University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS, 66160, USA

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**Abstract**

This is a case of an unusual cause of a testicular mass and the clinical features associated with its presentation and management. The patient presented with testicular pain and was found to have a testicular mass on ultrasound with a central 1cm anechoic region with arterial wave-form concerning for a pseudoaneurysm. The patient underwent orchiectomy with resolution of his symptoms. This case highlights the presentation of testicular artery pseudoaneurysm and outcome following orchiectomy.

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**Corresponding author:** William P Parker (wparker@kumc.edu)

**Competing interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

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Case history
A 34 year-old Caucasian man presented to the Emergency Department at the University of Kansas Medical Center (Kansas City, Kansas) with a 1 week history of right-sided orchalgia in December of 2012. The day prior to presentation the patient was admitted at an outside institution for presumed orchitis, where he was treated with intravenous levofloxacin 500mg. During that hospitalization a scrotal ultrasound was obtained which revealed hypervascularity of the right testicle but no masses or lesions within the testicle. He was discharged the next day, but due to persistent symptoms presented to our institution. He denied any constitutional symptoms and was voiding without difficulty or irritative symptoms. He additionally denied any prior genitourinary trauma or infections including any history of orchitis, prostatitis, urinary tract infection, or sexually transmitted infection. The patient was monogamous without any high-risk behavior. The patient had no past medical history and was on no prior medications. His examination revealed a swollen and indurated right testicle without involvement of the paratesticular structures. There was no discrete testicular mass palpable. Scrotal ultrasound revealed a region of hypoechogenicity measuring 3.3cm × 2cm felt to represent an intratesticular hematoma (see Figure 1). Within this there was a 1cm central focus that demonstrated an arterial wave form with alternating reversal of flow, suggestive of a pseudoaneurysm (see Figure 2). Our differential diagnosis included abscess, testicular artery aneurysm/pseudoaneurysm, or testicular neoplasm. We counseled the patient on the ultrasonographic findings and our differential diagnosis, which included testicular artery pseudoaneurysm. Based on our working diagnosis, we discussed possible treatment options, to include observation with serial ultrasonography versus radical orchietomy. The patient was in a considerable amount of pain, no longer interested in pursuing fertility options, and significantly concerned about the possibility of a testicular neoplasm. Due to these concerns, he ultimately elected to undergo radical orchietomy. Tumor markers were obtained prior to orchietomy and were within normal limits (AFP 14.9ng/ml, bHCG 1 U/L, and LDH 109 U/L). He tolerated the procedure without any adverse event and was discharged to home with resolution of his pain on the first post-operative morning. Pathologic evaluation confirmed the presence of significant intraparenchymal hemorrhage within a background of chronic orchitis (see Figure 3). At the time of post-operative follow-up – 2 weeks after his orchietomy – the patient was 100% pain-free, no longer interested in fertility options, and no longer concerned about testicular neoplasm.

Figure 1. Scrotal ultrasound of the right testicle in transverse revealing a hypoechoogenic lesion within the central testicle with an anechoic central core.

Figure 2. Doppler ultrasound of the right testicle in transverse reveals an arterial waveform within the center of the anechoic portion of the testicular mass.
The management of this case is limited by the radical treatment offered – namely orchiectomy. In counseling the patient, we offered the more conservative option of observation with serial ultrasonography; however the patient was significantly concerned about malignant potential. In the absence of overwhelming evidence to rule out malignancy, the patient wished to pursue radical orchiectomy – a reasonable approach in the setting of any testicular mass. While the ultrasonographic features are distinct in this case, the rarity of this entity does not allow for a determination of the sensitivity of ultrasound in the diagnosis.

In the current case, the patient was no longer interested in fertility and was concerned about malignancy, leading to a radical orchiectomy. However, it would be reasonable to consider partial orchiectomy in appropriately screened and counseled patients, with the understanding that frozen pathologic assessment would guide the potential need for radical excision. Regardless, at the time of final follow-up the patient was satisfied with his course of care and the outcome.

Consent
The patient was unable to be reached for consent and no next-of-kin information was available to contact the patient. The write-up does not contain sufficient information to identify the patient as this is a case based mainly on radiology and pathology findings. We have made numerous attempts to contact the patient and it appears that his contact information as provided at the time of treatment is no longer valid.

Author contributions
William Parker prepared the manuscript; Ajay Nangia edited the manuscript and participated in the clinical care of the patient.

Competing interests
No competing interests were disclosed.

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References

Figure 3. Gross section of the right testicle bi-valved with hematoma and surrounding intraparenchymal hemorrhage. The patient was in excellent condition with complete resolution of his pain. His surgical incision was well healed and he had no evidence of intra-scrotal pathology.

Discussion
Intratesticular hemorrhage is frequently associated with trauma. In the absence of trauma, testicular artery aneurysm and pseudoaneurysm have been described as an infrequent source of hematoma formation. To our knowledge there have been two cases of testicular artery aneurysm and two of pseudoaneurysm reported in the literature, with etiologies of trauma1–3 and infection1.

As in previous cases of testicular artery aneurysm and pseudoaneurysm, the diagnosis was established on ultrasonography. Furthermore this case describes a second scenario in which sonographically diagnosed orchitis has progressed to this clinicopathologic entity4. Our management included radical orchiectomy - to rule out possible malignancy - and the patient recovered with complete resolution of his pain. This case supports orchitis as a risk factor for pseudoaneurysm formation, the use of ultrasound for the diagnosis, and the use of orchectomy as a potential treatment in patients with unremitting pain.
Open Peer Review

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✅ Nelson Bennett
Institute of Urology, Lahey Clinic Medical Center, Burlington, MA, USA

Nice addition to the report.

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

Version 1

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❓ Jay Sandlow
Department of Urology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, USA

The authors describe a fairly rare case of testicular artery pseudoaneurysm, presumably secondary to orchitis. The case history is complete and the figures are well-presented. Furthermore, based on the patient’s history, age, and ultrasound findings, their management was not unreasonable. However, I would like them to describe in more detail the thought process that led to a radical orchietomy, particularly since pseudoaneurysm was in their differential. Because the patient was of reproductive age, I wonder if it would have been possible to preserve some functioning testicular tissue. Based on the gross appearance of the specimen, it appears that at least a third of the testis was unaffected. How accurate is
scrotal ultrasound in identifying a testicular artery pseudoaneurysm? Finally, looking back, is there something that the authors could have done to prevent a radical orchiectomy? This might be helpful for those of us facing this situation in the future. I think with some revisions of the Discussion, this case report should be acceptable.

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however I have significant reservations, as outlined above.
This is a very nice presentation and description of a rare issue. The manuscript underscores that a complete scrotal/testicular ultrasound be carefully scrutinized. To further enhance the impact of the study, the authors may want to consider including the values of the testicular tumor markers.

Good Show.

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.