

Title: VERTEBRAL VIXEN- A RARE CASE OF AGGRESSIVE SPINAL HEMANGIOMA IN PREGNANCY

INTRODUCTION

Hemangiomas are benign, slow growing vascular tumours constituting 10-12%[1] of all spinal tumours. Although rare in pregnancy, they pose unique challenges due to changes in vascular dynamics and its implications for maternal and fetal health.

OBJECTIVES

To highlight the clinical presentation, diagnostic challenges, ethical issues and management strategies of vertebral hemangioma during pregnancy.

CASE OPERATION PROCEDURE

A 23-year-old primigravida at 22 weeks 6 days of gestation presented with insidious onset left lower limb weakness resulting in multiple episodes of fall while walking since 2 days. On clinical examination, left lower limb monoparesis was noted with a power of 2/5. MRI of the lumbosacral spine revealed an aggressive vertebral hemangioma at the L2 level.

After discussion by a panel of obstetricians, spine surgeons and neurologists, two treatment options were presented to the patient: immediate surgical management of the tumor after termination of pregnancy or continuing the pregnancy with due risks, and post-natal surgical management. The patient opted for termination of pregnancy. MTP was done as per FIGO guidelines which included a combined Mifepristone and Misoprostol regimen. Subsequently, patient was referred to the spine surgery unit where she underwent a stepwise procedure of endovascular embolization of feeder vessels of the hemangioma, followed by CT guided vertebroplasty of the L2 vertebra. The procedure was well-tolerated and the left lower limb power which was 1/5 prior to the procedure, improved to 3/5 on day 3 post procedure and patient was discharged in a stable condition.

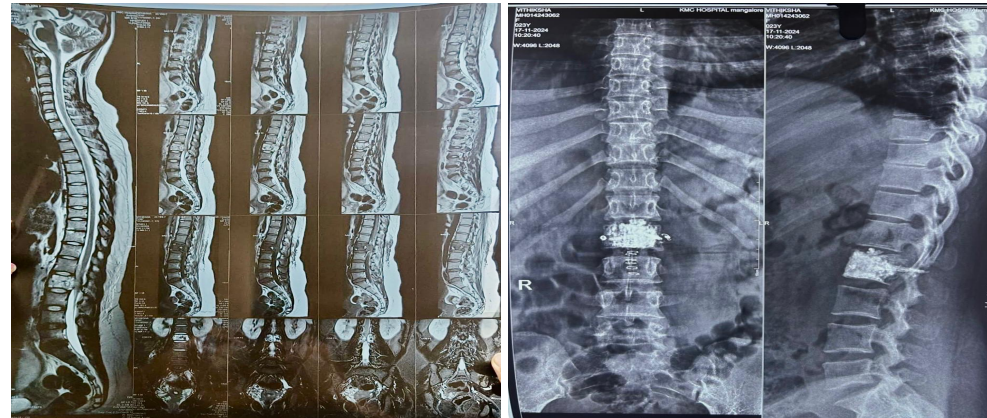


Fig 1: Aggressive vertebral hemangioma at the L2 level

Fig 2: -vertebroplasty at L2 vertebral level

DISCUSSION

Spinal hemangiomas are generally asymptomatic but can cause significant morbidity if they lead to spinal cord compression or vertebral fractures. In pregnancy, changes in hormones and blood volume may influence the behaviour of vascular lesions. Management is typically conservative during pregnancy, with surgical intervention reserved for cases involving neurological compromise or progressive symptoms.[2]

CONCLUSION

Vertebral hemangiomas, although rare, can present serious challenges when symptomatic. A multidisciplinary approach, timely diagnosis, and appropriate intervention has helped mitigate complications and improved the patient's outcome.

REFERENCES

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- 2] Blecher R, Smorgick Y, Mirovsky Y. Symptomatic spinal hemangioma in pregnancy. Isr Med Assoc J. 2010;12(5):311-3.

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr Vineetha Shetty, Dr., Ishwar Keerthi, Dr. Keerthiraj. B