Case Report

A 32-year-old woman presented with a one-year history of mild abdominal pain in the left upper quadrant and a palpable pulsatile abdominal mass on physical examination. The results of laboratory investigations, including serum urea and creatinine levels, were unremarkable. Contrast enhanced computed tomography (CT) showed a large left renal artery aneurysm, measuring 5.0 cm by 3.5 cm, but no evidence of renal perfusion alterations or other vascular abnormalities (Figure 1). She had been previously submitted to an unsuccessful endovascular approach with intention to treat the aneurysm and preserve left renal perfusion. Because she was young and in good health our purpose was to preserve left renal function and an open repair was adopted. The patient underwent a laparotomy with midline incision and the left kidney, left renal vein and artery were circumferentially mobilized from surrounding tissues. To permit a much better exposure, left renal vein and artery were clamped and transected while the ureter was left intact and the ex-situ reconstruction was performed on the body wall [1-3]. Surface cooling and hypothermic renal perfusion with Euro-Collins solution (4°C) was performed. To prevent the preservation solution (containing high levels of potassium) from entering the central circulation, it was washed out before finishing the anastomoses [1,2]. Other authors have suggested that when more than 40 minutes of warm ischemia are required, these measures to protect renal function should be instituted [1,4]. The aneurysm was resected leaving the stump of the distal renal artery, just proximal to its bifurcation. The left hypogastric artery has been previously dissected and was used as auto graft for the renal artery reconstruction (Figure 2). Hypogastric auto grafts has been used in larger series and have important role in complex surgical procedures.
branched renal vascular lesions [5]. Left renal vein was primarily anastomosed and the kidney was returned to the original position. The patient was discharged six days later, renal function remained unchanged and symptoms resolved. Duplex scan and contrast enhanced CT surveillance demonstrated left renal artery and vein patency at six-month follow-up (Figure 3).

References


