Suppurative prostatitis with symptomatic benign prostatic hyperplasia: A case report and review of literature

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Introduction

The prostate is an uncommon site for suppuration [1]. The occurrence of Suppurative prostatitis with symptomatic Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) is very rare. Suppurative prostatitis usually occur in men in their 5th or 6th decades [2]. The presentation of suppurative prostatitis can be non–specific and in some cases mimicking the lower urinary tract symptoms of patients with BPH thereby making the diagnosis difficult.

Case Presentation

The patient is a 75 year old man that initially presented in 2014 with storage and voiding lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS). Prostate specific antigen (PSA) was 16ng/ml for which he had digitally guided prostate needle biopsy with histological diagnosis of BPH. He was commenced on tamsulosin, an alpha adrenergic blocker but was lost to follow up. He however re–presented in march 2018 in acute urinary retention and after a failed urethral catheterization was offered suprapubic cystostomy. He was still having LUTS but no suprapubic or perineal pain. Digital rectal examination (DRE) revealed an enlarged prostate with benign features. Abdominopelvic ultrasound scan revealed an enlarged prostate with a volume of 106.2cm^3 with a heterogenous echotexture and smooth outline, no mass, cyst or calcification noted. Urine culture yielded mixed growth of Pseudomonas species and enterococcus species sensitive to augmentin,gentamicin,erythromycin, PSA was 26ng/ml. He was treated with Augmentin and Genticin and a repeat culture showed a resolution of infection. He had transvesical prostatectomy, hematuria stopped on the 2nd post operative day but patient developed heamuria on the 5th post operative day, urine culture yeided heavy growth of pseudomonas for which he was managed by bladder irrigation and administration of levoflaxacin and genticin based on sensitivity pattern. Hematuria stopped by 7th day post operation, catheter removed and patient discharged.

On pathological examination, the prostate weighed 102g with a nodular grayish white appearance and bosselated surface. Cut sections revealed multiple cysts giving a spongy appearance. On microscopy,prostatic tissue showed a biphasic lesion consisting of acinar and fibromuscular proliferation. Within the stroma were foci of abscess composed of abundant neutrophils and necrotic debris. There was no typia. A histologic diagnosis of nodular hyperplasia with suppurative prostatitis was made.

First and second post–operative clinical visits were all uneventful.

Discussion

Suppurative prostatitis is rare and difficult to diagnose'
and its coexistence with symptomatic BPH makes its diagnosis even more difficult. Suppurative prostatitis usually occur in middle-aged men in their 5th or 6th decades and are more common in individuals who are immunocompromised, diabetic, on hemodialysis, who have indwelling catheters or following prostate needle biopsy[2–5]. A study done by Tiwari et al puts diabetics and prolonged catheterization as the most common causes. The index patient was on indwelling catheter prior to his surgery and prostate biopsy is unlikely playing a role here since he had it four years earlier.

Our patient was having LUTS but the classical findings of fever, dysuria, perineal or suprapubic pain as well as a tender and fluctuant prostate on DRE were all absent making the diagnosis of suppurative prostatitis remote based on clinical findings. The urine culture of our patient showed mixed growth of pseudomonas species and enterococcus species. Aerobic gram-negative bacilli are the predominant pathogens in bacterial prostatitis, E. coli accounts for 50%–80% of these cases, Enterococcus species 5%–10% of cases, and non fermenting gram-negative bacilli eg Pseudomonas species <5% of cases [6].

Other forms of suppurative prostatitis have also been reported in the literature including tuberculous prostatitis and emphysematous prostatitis [7,8]. Though transrectal ultrasound scan is the ideal for the diagnosis of suppurative prostatitis, it was not available at the time of this study, the abdominopelvic ultrasound scan was that done did not detect the suppuration. Though Tiwari et al [4], in their study indicated that 50% of the patients in their study had their suppuration detected on abdominopelvic ultrasound scan (those with abscess cavities greater than 1cm) Suppuration was only seen in the index case on the gross specimen following sectioning of the prostate and confirmed on histological analysis as shown in the slides. Treatment options for suppurative prostatitis include transurethral unroofing, transurethral or transperineal ultrasound guided puncture or conservative management with only antibiotics for the patients with small monofocal abscess cavity that is less than 1cm in diameter [4,9]. Our patient had transvesical prostatectomy, developed hematuria on the 5th post operative day which could be regarded as secondary hemorrhage from infection considering the urine culture result (Figures 1–3).

Conclusion
Suppurative prostatitis is rare and presentation can be non-specific as seen in the index case. The coexistence of suppurative prostatitis with BPH could pose even more diagnostic challenge. A high index of suspicion is required to make the diagnosis.

References

Figure 1: Abdominopelvic ultrasound scan showing the dimensions of the prostate with a heterogenous echogenicity.

Figure 2: Photomicrograph of prostatic tissue shows confluent abscess cavities composed of abundant neutrophils and necrotic debris. There is no atypia. AC=Abscess cavity.

Figure 3: Photomicrograph of prostatic tissue show a biphasic lesion consisting of acinar and fibromuscular proliferation. Within the stroma are abscess cavities. AC- Abscess cavity.

