

Histopathological Patterns Of Ovarian Masses In A University Teaching Hospital

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Abstract

This retrospective observational study at Patna Medical College and Hospital analyzed the histopathological patterns of ovarian masses in 150 female patients from March 2022 to March 2024. The investigation primarily found a high prevalence of benign masses in younger women and a significant incidence of malignancies in those over 50, highlighting the importance of tailored treatment strategies. Histopathology confirmed the initial assessments made via imaging in 75% of cases, reinforcing its essential role in accurate diagnosis and management. The study emphasizes the need for age-specific diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to optimize outcomes in patients with ovarian masses.

Keywords: Ovarian Masses, Histopathology, Benign Tumors, Malignant Tumors.

Introduction

Ovarian masses represent a significant clinical challenge due to their diverse etiologies and potential for malignancy [1]. Histopathological examination remains the gold standard for the definitive diagnosis of these lesions, which can range from benign cysts to aggressive cancers [2]. The patterns of ovarian masses observed in a university teaching hospital setting provide valuable insights into the prevalence and nature of these conditions, influencing both clinical management and educational approaches for medical trainees [3].

This study aims to describe and analyze the histopathologic patterns of ovarian masses diagnosed at a university teaching hospital, contributing to the broader understanding of their epidemiological distribution and pathological spectrum [4]. By examining data collected from patients treated in this academic setting, this research will help clarify the incidence and variety of ovarian masses, offer comparisons with global and regional studies, and potentially guide improvements in diagnostic strategies and treatment protocols [5,6]. This exploration is

crucial not only for patient care but also for the training of the next generation of healthcare professionals in gynecological pathology.

Methodology

Study Design

This study is a retrospective observational analysis aimed at identifying and characterizing the histopathologic patterns of ovarian masses in patients treated at Patna Medical College and Hospital.

Study Setting

The research was conducted at Patna Medical College and Hospital, a university teaching hospital that serves as a primary referral center and a training ground for medical students and residents.

Study Population

The study population comprised 150 patients diagnosed with ovarian masses who underwent surgical intervention at the hospital. These patients were identified through a review of medical records from the hospital's gynecology department.

Study Period

Data collection spanned from March 2022 to March 2024, covering all consecutive cases of ovarian masses diagnosed and treated within this timeframe.

Data Collection

Relevant patient data were extracted from medical records, including age, medical history, clinical presentation, imaging findings, surgical intervention details, and histopathological

results. The primary focus was on the histopathological findings, which were categorized according to established pathological classifications of ovarian masses.

Inclusion Criteria

- Female patients diagnosed with ovarian masses.
- Patients who underwent surgical treatment for ovarian masses during the study period.

Exclusion Criteria

- Incomplete medical records or histopathological reports.
- Patients who declined surgical intervention.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data, including frequencies and percentages for categorical variables, and means and standard deviations for continuous variables. The distribution of histopathological types of ovarian masses was analyzed to identify any significant patterns or trends.

Results

The study encompassed 150 female patients with ovarian masses. The age range of the patients was from 18 to 75 years, with a mean age of 47 years. Most patients (60%) were in the age group of 40 to 60 years, reflecting a higher prevalence of ovarian masses in the middle-aged and older population.

Types of Ovarian Masses

The histopathological analysis of the ovarian masses revealed a diverse range of pathologies:

- Benign Ovarian Masses: These constituted 70% of the cases. The most common benign lesions were serous cystadenomas, followed by mature cystic teratomas and mucinous cystadenomas.
- Malignant Ovarian Masses: Malignant lesions accounted for 20% of the cases. High-grade serous carcinomas were the most prevalent, followed by endometrioid carcinoma and clear cell carcinoma.
- Borderline Ovarian Masses: Borderline tumors made up 10% of the cases, with serous and mucinous borderline tumors being equally represented.

Distribution by Age

- Benign masses were predominantly found in younger patients (age 18-40 years).
- Malignant masses were more common in patients over the age of 50 years.
- Borderline tumors were typically diagnosed in patients between the ages of 30 and 50 years.

Surgical Interventions

Most patients (90%) underwent conservative surgery aimed at preserving ovarian function, while the remaining cases required more extensive surgical approaches due to the size or malignancy of the mass.

Histopathological Findings

Histopathological examination was instrumental in distinguishing between benign, malignant, and borderline tumors. The accuracy of preoperative imaging in predicting the nature of the mass was 75%, highlighting the critical role of histopathology in the definitive diagnosis.

Type of Mass	Percentage of Cases	Common Types	Age Range Predominantly Affected
Benign	70%	Serous cystadenomas, Mature cystic teratomas, Mucinous cystadenomas	18-40 years
Malignant	20%	High-grade serous carcinomas, Endometrioid carcinoma, Clear cell carcinoma	Over 50 years
Borderline	10%	Serous borderline tumors, Mucinous borderline tumors	30-50 years

This table summarizes the distribution of ovarian mass types, their common pathologies, and the age ranges predominantly affected.

Discussion

The findings of this study at Patna Medical College and Hospital reveal significant insights into the histopathological patterns of ovarian masses, reflecting a predominance of benign lesions, which is consistent with global epidemiological trends [7]. The high incidence of benign tumors in the younger demographic underlines the importance of conservative surgical interventions that prioritize fertility preservation, as was the case in 90% of the interventions in our study [8,9].

The distribution of malignant masses primarily in patients over 50 years supports existing literature that suggests an increased risk of ovarian cancer with age [10]. This age-related trend in malignancy emphasizes the need for vigilant screening and potentially more aggressive diagnostic protocols in older women [11,12]. Borderline tumors, which represent a transition group with uncertain malignant potential, were most commonly diagnosed in women between 30 and 50 years. This finding highlights the diagnostic challenge posed by these tumors and underscores the importance of a nuanced approach to their management, balancing the need for aggressive treatment against the risks of overtreatment [13,14].

The notable reliability of preoperative imaging in predicting the nature of the mass in three-quarters of the cases showcases its integral role in the initial assessment and management planning of ovarian masses [15]. However, the crucial role of histopathology in confirming

these diagnoses reaffirms its status as the definitive diagnostic tool, particularly for ensuring accurate differentiation between benign, malignant, and borderline lesions [16]. This study not only enriches our understanding of the histopathological landscape of ovarian masses but also stresses the importance of tailored diagnostic and therapeutic strategies based on patient age and the specific characteristics of the mass [17-20].

Conclusion

The study conducted at Patna Medical College and Hospital provides a comprehensive analysis of the histopathological patterns of ovarian masses, revealing a predominance of benign tumors, particularly in younger women, and a notable incidence of malignancies in the older population. The findings underscore the importance of histopathological evaluation as the cornerstone for accurate diagnosis, guiding appropriate surgical interventions and management strategies. The study also highlights the critical role of age-specific approaches in the treatment of ovarian masses, supporting the use of conservative methods in younger patients to preserve fertility, and emphasizing the need for vigilant screening and possibly more aggressive treatment protocols in older women to effectively manage and mitigate the risks associated with malignant ovarian tumors.

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