

Ultrasound and clinical features of uterine sarcomas: insights from a Portuguese multicenter study

Sara Paiva⁴, Laura Gomes³, Dusan Djokovic^{1,2}

1. Hospital CUF Descobertas, Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal | 2. Universidade Nova de Lisboa Medical School, Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

3. Unidade Local de Saude Sao Jose, Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal | 4. Unidade Local de Saude do Alto Ave, Guimaraes, Braga, Portugal

Objectives

To describe the clinical and ultrasound characteristics of uterine sarcomas diagnosed at two Portuguese referral hospitals between 2015 and 2023.

Methods

Retrospective review of uterine sarcoma cases with preoperative ultrasound (2015–2023) at two tertiary hospitals in Lisbon: clinical data and ultrasound images were analyzed.

Results

Histology:

- Leiomyosarcoma: 9
- Carcinosarcoma: 6
- Endometrial stromal sarcoma: 4
- Adenosarcoma: 1

Median age

55 years
(range, 40–87)



Menopausal status

55% (11/20)
post-menopausal ♀

Symptoms at diagnosis

Most frequent presentation:
70% (14/20): abnormal uterine bleeding

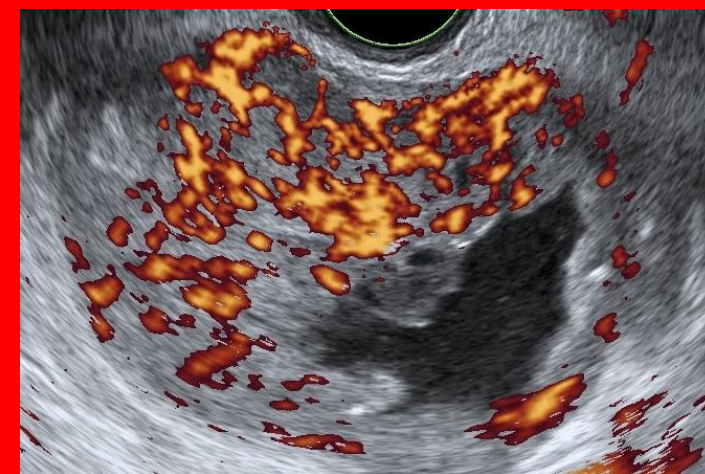
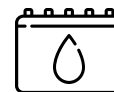


Figure 1. Typical ultrasound presentation of uterine sarcoma in our series: large, solid tumor with rich intralesional vascularity, absent acoustic shadowing, and irregular cystic/necrotic areas.

Median tumor diameter

83 mm
(range: 27–210mm)

All described as solid mass

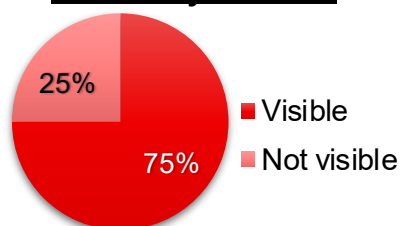
Color Doppler examination

Moderate/rich vascularization
90% (18/20)

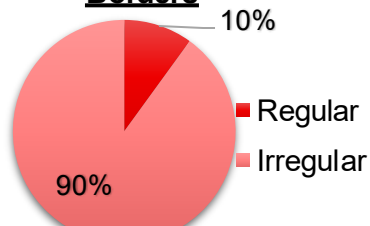
Acoustic shadowing
50% (10/20)

Calcifications
30% (6/20)

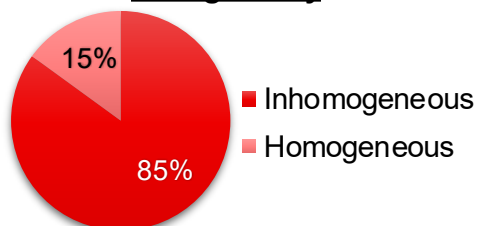
Normal myometrium



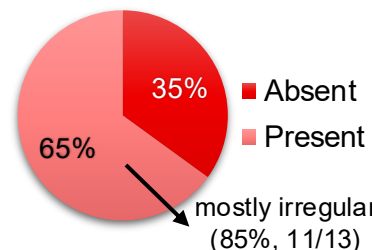
Borders



Echogenecity



Cystic areas



Conclusion

Our series supports a high index of suspicion for uterine sarcoma in peri- or postmenopausal women presenting with abnormal uterine bleeding and ultrasound showing a large, irregular, heterogeneous uterine mass without acoustic shadowing or calcifications and with rich vascularity.