



A rare case of a vertebral haemangioma aggravated during pregnancy

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Objective

- Vertebral haemangiomas are benign slow growing cavernous or capillary tumors. In most cases the lesion remains asymptomatic and incidentally encountered on imaging. Commonly located in thoracic or lumbar vertebra.
- During pregnancy and in post partum, patients can become symptomatic due to increased blood volume, oestrogen and progesterone causing angiogenesis and vascular growth and in post partum uterine contractions leading to rapid increase in blood volume.
- These changes cause haemorrhage into the epidural space, expansion of an involved vertebrae with spinal canal narrowing, compression fracture of vertebrae or subperiosteal growth of tumor.
- The optimal management is controversial due to concerns regarding both maternal and fetal wellbeing. We report a case which was managed surgically with a good outcome

Case Report

- A 25 year old primi gravida presented at 28 weeks of gestation due to progressive weakness and numbness of bilateral lower limbs for a duration of one week.
- Associated with retention of urine and had no history of a trauma or a back pain.
- On physical examination ,reduced bilateral lower limb power (0/5 MRC scale), upward plantar reflex and sensory impairment below T6 was identified.
- Contrast enhanced MRI of the whole spine performed and it revealed an intra dural extra medullay lesion at D4/D5 level. Features were compatible with a haemangioma causing cord compression at D5 level.
- Early delivery was planned to facilitate the spinal surgery and elective caesarean section was performed at 32 weeks of gestation
- Two weeks following that she underwent laminectomy with excision of the tumor.
- Histopathological analysis revealed a lobular proliferation of capillaries lined by a flat endothelial layer suggestive of a lobular capillary haemangioma.
- Following the surgery lower limb sensory impairment improved and the motor weakness improved gradually with physiotherapy. Baby received care at the neonatal intensive care unit and had a good outcome.



Discussion

- Although asymptomatic commonly, vertebral haemangiomas can become symptomatic with the physiological pregnancy changes .
- It should be considered as a differential diagnosis in a patient presenting with neurological impairment during pregnancy or in the puerperium