



Three cases of uterine arterio-venous malformations

Sinha P, Hla T

Tawam Hospital, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Objective

The true incidence of uterine arterio-venous malformations (UAVM) is unknown but it is considered rare. The acquired type is more common (0.10%) than the congenital type. Diagnosis should be considered in patients at childbearing age associated with pregnancy and related complications who present with abnormal genital bleeding. The most common symptom is varying degrees of vaginal bleeding menometrorrhagia or menorrhagia. The objective of this study was to present our experience of three cases of UAVM.

Methods

We present three cases of UAVM.

Results

Two of the three cases were detected on follow up after methotrexate treatment of cesarean section (CS) scar ectopic pregnancy which took long time to resolve and ended up in surgical resection including total abdominal hysterectomy. The third case had previous CS with irregular heavy bleeding. Medical treatment and Mirena coil failed to treat the symptoms. Hysteroscopy was normal.

Conclusion

Angiography was the gold standard for the diagnosis of UAVM. Currently, transvaginal Doppler ultrasound is the most utilized method, and angiography is reserved for patients requiring surgical treatment or therapeutic embolization. Ultrasound findings are high-velocity and multidirectional flow in the myometrium low-resistance flow and high-velocity arterial and pulsatile venous flow. However, its ability to accurately determine the lesion extent may be limited in the pelvis. MRI is an excellent noninvasive method to determine the disease extent and aid to confirm the diagnosis but depends on the radiologist's expertise.

