

PEDIATRIC TESTICULAR TUMORS IN IRAQ: A CLINICO-PATHOLOGICAL STUDY

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Cases of primary testicular tumors were collected from the files of Iraqi Cancer Registry through the period 1986-1997. These cases of pediatric testicular tumors then were isolated, revised clinically and microscopically and diagnosed according to the WHO classification (1). 42 cases were included in this presentation.

Pediatric testicular tumors represented 8% of all testicular tumors and 1.5% of all pediatric tumors in Iraq in this 12 years period (2). Their incidence was 0.1/100.000 male pediatric population/yr. Laterality was confirmed in 14 cases, 8 of them were right and 6 were left sided.

Histological typing of these tumors showed that germ cell tumors (GCT) were the most common type (24 cases, 57%) and of these, the most common type was yolk sac tumor (YST, 14 cases, 33%). All of the cases of YSTs occurred in the first 3 years of life.

Teratomas were the second most common type of GCTs (7 cases, 17%), 4 cases were immature and 3 were mature teratomas. It was noted that the mean age of mature teratoma (3.7 yr.) was less than immature teratoma (7.8 yr.).

Other types of GCTs were generally rare, including seminoma (1 case), embryonal carcinoma (1 case) and mixed GCTs (teratoma + embryonal ca. or teratoca.) (1 case). All of these 3 cases occurred after 10 years of age.

Tumors other than GCTs were less common. The most frequent type was embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma

(9 cases, 21%) with a mean age of 8.2 years, and 2 cases of unclassified sarcoma.

Testicular leukemic infiltration was confirmed in 4 cases, where all of these cases were acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Only 1 case of lymphoma was confirmed, and was of diffuse small and non-cleaved (Burkitt) type.

Other rare types were detected, as 1 case of melanotic neuro-ectodermal tumor and 1 case of gonadoblastoma.

The results obtained in this study were similar to other studies (3,4). None of our cases developed in undescended testis, unlike adult GCTs. The histological typing of these tumors showed an obvious difference from the cases that occurred in adults, where seminoma is the most common histological type, followed by mixed GCTs, while both these types were rare in this study.

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