Müllerian Agenesis: Presenting as an Isolated Rudimentary Uterus

Sharina Al Dhaheri, Juma Al Kaabi, Saad Aswad, Abdul-Kader Souid, and Ruth D. Langer

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Abstract

Müllerian agenesis (Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome) is typically described as missing uterus and fallopian tubes with malformation of the upper vagina. Isolated uterine anomaly is a rare variant of the syndrome. A 16-year-old female with primary amenorrhea and rudimentary uterus on the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was reported. The ovaries, vaginal canal and other abdominal and pelvic organs were normal. The patient’s sexual, physical and developmental characteristics were normal. The serum follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinizing hormone (LH), estradiol, prolactin, testosterone and thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) were also normal. Thus, this patient represents an important variant of the Müllerian agenesis syndrome.

Keywords: Amenorrhea; Mullerian aplasia.

Introduction

Primary amenorrhea is defined as absence of menses at 15 years of age with normal growth and sexual characteristics. Chromosomal anomalies account for about 50% of the causes. The second most common etiology is Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome. This rare (about 1 in 5,000 female births) entity describes specific malformations of the Müllerian duct, resulting in absence or hypoplasia of the uterus and fallopian tubes with variable malformations of the upper two thirds of the vagina. These findings can be isolated (type I) or associated with renal, skeletal, auditory or cardiac anomalies (type II, known as Müllerian duct aplasia, renal aplasia, and cervicothoracic somite dysplasia, or MURCS). Otherwise, patients have normal female karyotype and functional ovaries. Isolated uterine anomaly (rudimentary uterus) is a rare variant of the syndrome and is reported here.

Case Report

This 16-year-old girl was seen for evaluation of absent menses. The development of her breast, pubic hair, axillary hair and external genitalia were also normal. Her review of systems, past medical history and family history were otherwise unremarkable. The patient had normal height, weight and sexual characteristics (sexual maturity rating V). The serum levels of FSH, LH, estradiol, prolactin, testosterone and TSH were all normal. Chromosomal analysis showed normal female karyotype (46XX). Pelvic and abdominal ultrasound and MRI revealed isolated uterine anomaly (rudimentary uterus; size: 1.73 cm x 1.22 cm x 1.70 cm), Fig. 1-2. The ovaries and vaginal canal were normal (Fig.1-2). The patient had no associated renal, skeletal or other anomalies and she was counseled on the option of uterine transplantation along with her family.

Figure 1: Trans-abdominal sagittal ultrasound of the lower pelvis. Panel A: Vagina (V) and rudimentary uterus (RU) (1.73 x 1.22 x 1.70 cm) located behind the urinary bladder (B). Panel B: Left ovary (LO) with measurements, 2.31 x 1.56 x 1.62 cm. Panel C: Right ovary (RO) with measurements, 2.7 cm x 2.18 cm x 2.55 cm (2).
MRKH syndrome was first described by Mayer et al. in 1829, as Müllerian agenesis. Subsequently, Rokitansky and Küster defined the syndrome as absence of the uterus, fallopian tubes and upper vagina. Müllerian agenesis syndrome and raises several challenges in management. This reported case represents an important variant of the Müllerian agenesis syndrome and raises several challenges in management. These include lifelong supportive counseling, corrective neovagina surgery, the possibility of surrogate pregnancy and the potential of undergoing successful human uterine transplantation.

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References