Bilateral Duplication of Gonadal Veins: a Case Report

Duplicación Bilateral de las Venas Gonadales: Reporte de Caso

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SUMMARY: The duplication of gonadal vessels is mainly found on the left side, with less numbers of bilateral cases. The objective of this work is describing a case of bilateral duplication of gonadal veins, where two veins were draining to inferior vena cava, being that the closest vein of kidney medial margin had a thickness of 2.68mm and was distant 64.41 mm of the organ. The second vessel had a thickness of 1.43mm and was distant 73.76mm. Two veins follow to left renal vein, being that the first vessel had a thickness of 2.7mm and was distant 21.8mm of the kidney medial margin; the other had a thickness of 1.64mm and was distant 35.13mm of the organ. The presence of variations on the local of drainage of gonadal vessels has clinical importance for comprehension of origin of varicocele cases, as well as the recurrence of them after surgical procedures.

KEY WORDS: Macroscopic anatomy; Dissection; Anatomical variation; Gonadal vessels; Varicocele.

INTRODUCTION

Anatomical variation means the presence of a structure infrequent but functionally active, without any prejudice of the organism vital functions (Ruiz, 2010). The presence of these variations on the gonadal veins local of drainage is very important to comprehend the origin of varicocele cases, and the recurrence of those after surgery procedures (Jetti et al., 2008).

The testicular vein emerges posteriorly from the testicle and drains the epididymis, later joining to the pampiniform plexus, which amounts anteriorly to the ductus deferens. This plexus is drainage for three or four veins which pass through the inguinal channel and became two veins, which go up anteriorly to the ureter, following the testicular artery. The right testicular vein drains to the inferior vena cava, in an acute angle, under the renal veins. The left testicular vein drains to the left renal vein, in a right angle (Standring, 2008).

Only the right gonadal vein joins the inferior vena cava directly, and usually is duplicated all the way up, until a few centimeters of its drainage local (Gay et al., 1991) (Fig. 1).
CASE REPORT

During a dissection of an anatomical piece in the anatomy laboratory in Centro Universitário São Camilo, a case of bilateral duplication of the gonadal veins was found (Fig. 2).

In the piece, two gonadal veins draining to the left renal vein were apparent, perpendicular to this, where the lateral left gonadal vein, closest to the medial margin of the left kidney was distant 21.8 mm to the organ, and had a thickness of 2.7 mm, while the medial left gonadal vein was distant to the kidney 35.13 mm and had a thickness of 1.64 mm, following parallel the lateral vein. In the right side, there were two veins draining in an straight angle to the inferior vena cava, where the gonadal vein located more laterally was distant 64.41 mm from the left kidney and had a thickness of 2.68 mm, while the right medial gonadal vein was 73.76 mm distant and had a thickness of 7.18 mm (Fig. 3).

DISCUSSION

According to Gay et al., 40% of patients present multiple gonadal veins. Lechter et al. (1991), show in their research that in the last 5 years, 120 cases had been seen of variation in the gonadal vessels.

Nayak (2008), described duplication of the gonadal vessels, but together with the duplication of renal veins. In 34 corpses analyzed for Duques et al. (2002), were present a single testicular/ovaric vein in 85.2% and double in 8.8%.

These anatomical variations related to testicular veins are more frequently found on the left side. In the study of Asala et al. (2001), 32 of 150 dissected corpses had variations, and 6 of these 32 the variation were present in both sides.

The variations were more frequent in the left side in the work of Favorito et al. (2007) too, with duplication in 15% of the cases. In the right side were found only 5% of duplication.

The dilatation of pampiniform plexus originates the pathological condition varicocele (Yang et al., 2007). The varicocele affects in major number the left testicle, causing a deficit in the spermatogenesis because of an alteration of testicle temperature. About 41% of the infertile male population presents varicocele (Favorito et al.; Yang et al.).

Yang et al., study confirms that variations of the testicular veins can result on the persistence of
varicocele, also hindering retroperitoneal surgical procedures and the own varicoclectomy.

The variation found in the gonadal vessels could be derived from alterations in the embryological origin of these vessels. The gonadal veins are originated from the subcardinal vein of fetus, however only in its distal position, when dysplasia occurs in the subcardinal venous system, between the 7th and 8th month, this bad formations of gonadal vein can be present (Yang et al.).

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RESUMEN: La duplicación de las venas gonadales es más común en el lado izquierdo, con pocos casos bilaterales. El propósito de este reporte fue describir el caso de una duplicación bilateral de las venas gonadales, dos de las cuales desembocaban en la vena cava inferior. El vaso próximo del margen medial del riñon tenía un diámetro de 2,68 mm y una longitud de 73,76 mm. Los dos vasos desembocaban en la vena renal izquierda. La primera vena tenía un diámetro de 2,7 mm y estaba a 21,8 mm del margen medial del riñon. La otra tenía un diámetro de 1,64 mm y se se localizaba a 35,13 mm del margen medial del riñon. La presencia de variaciones donde se produce el drenaje de los vasos gonadales tiene importancia clínica para la comprensión del origen del varicocele y la recurrentia del mismo, después de procedimientos quirúrgicos.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Anatomia macroscópica; Dissección; Variacion anatómica; Venas gonadales; Varicocele.

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