

IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Giant Ovarian Cyst in Sixteen-Year-Old Girl

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Figure 1. Abdominal appearance before laparoscopy

A 16-year-old girl was admitted to the Department of Child Surgery with an asymptomatic lump in her abdomen. Ten months before, she had noticed that “her belly grows”, and during a few months before admission, her abdomen began to grow faster. Physical examination showed an enlarged abdomen (Figure 1). The abdominal wall was tense, and palpation and percussion indicated a

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large abdominal mass. Computerized tomography and ultrasound examination confirmed the mesenteric or ovarian localization of the cyst and demonstrated almost total displacement of the surrounding structures. Laparoscopy was contraindicated because of the size of the cyst, which limited the working space and posed a high risk of spillage.¹ Instead, laparotomy was done, revealing a huge cyst in the left ovary that pushed the surrounding structures to the periphery. The cyst (35.6 cm x 14, 9 cm) was surgically removed. It contained 10.5 L of serous liquid. The size puts it among the largest ovarian cysts that have been described in adolescents. Indications for surgical treatment of ovarian cysts include all symptomatic cysts and any larger than 5 cm.² In our case, a safe, total cystectomy was done, because the cyst was located in the pelvis minor with limited approach to laparoscopy, and because we could not rule out a malignant genesis.

References

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