Introduction

The finding of a benign solid teratoma within the fallopian tube is rare. The incidence of solid mature teratoma of the fallopian tube associated with intrauterine leiomyomas is extremely low and may complicate the clinical manifestations. Here, we report a 40-year-old female with periodic lower abdominal pain and hypermenorrhea who was found to have 3 nodules within the uterine myometrium and left distended fallopian tube. Final pathology revealed benign solid teratoma of the fallopian tube associated with 3 intrauterine leiomyomas. Primary teratoma of the fallopian tube is extremely uncommon. Gynecologic oncologists should be aware of the possibility of this disease entity when making differential diagnoses. [J Chin Med Assoc 2008;71(8):425–427]

Case Report

A 40-year-old patient, gravida 6, para 2, abortion 4, complained of severe dysmenorrhea with periodical lower abdominal pain, hypermenorrhea, and occasional blood clots of a few months’ duration. She denied fever or the passage of tissue from the uterus. Symptoms did not improve after taking Azulensol 2 mg, Rrowapraxin 2 mg and Strocaine 10 mg. She later visited our outpatient department and was admitted for further evaluation. Her past medical history was positive for an appendectomy 3 years earlier. She denied previous pelvic inflammatory disease. Her family history was negative for any hereditary disease.

Physical examination revealed an oriented woman in no distress with a temperature of 37.2°C, blood
pressure of 118/75 mmHg, pulse of 78 beats/minute, and respiration of 18 breaths/minute. She had no tenderness or palpable masses on abdominal examination. Pelvic examination revealed 2 mL of old blood in the vaginal vault. She had cervical erosion. Sonographic examination showed 3 nodules within the uterine myometrium measuring about 2.8 × 2.2 cm, 2.4 × 2.2 cm and 1.6 × 1.2 cm (Figure 1). Laboratory examination results were within normal limits. Quantitative β-human chorionic gonadotropin was normal (<5 IU/mL). The patient underwent surgery with a preoperative diagnosis of intrauterine leiomyomas and adenomyosis was also put into consideration for differential diagnosis. At the time of the operation, the uterus was found to be enlarged due to 2 subserosal leiomyomas and an intramural leiomyoma. The left fallopian tube appeared to be predominantly solid and distended, containing cream-colored sebaceous material and hair (Figure 2). The contralateral adnexa and left ovary were normal. The patient subsequently underwent total abdominal hysterectomy with left salpingectomy.

Gross examination of the left fallopian tube revealed a 4.0 × 2.2 × 1.2 cm solid tumor. It contained a yellowish, cheesy, sebaceous material and black hair (Figure 3). Cross section revealed a thin wall lined by an opaque yellowish, gray-white wrinkled apparent epidermis. Within the wall was calcification. The distal and proximal portions of the tubal lumen appeared normal. On microscopic examination, the left fallopian tube showed mature solid teratoma with focal cystic change. The solid portion of the fallopian tube contained a plug of fatty, cheesy, waxy tissue. The wall of the tube was composed of well-differentiated squamous epithelium, hair follicles or shafts, underlying stratified squamous cells, sebaceous glands, and other skin adnexal structures (Figure 4).

Close follow-up sonographic surveillance and laboratory examination (β-human chorionic gonadotropin <5 IU/mL; α-fetoprotein <20 ng/mL) proved normal.
The patient had no symptoms or signs at the 4-month follow-up.

**Discussion**

The benign teratoma of the fallopian tube is composed of recognizable tissues of ectodermal, mesodermal and endodermal origin, in any combination. The term dermoid cyst was coined over 160 years ago. It refers to a mature teratoma that is composed predominantly of a cyst lined entirely or partly by well-differentiated keratin-producing squamous epithelium, which emerges from the tubal wall, not continuous with the tubal epithelium. It initially presents as of mesodermal origin with abundant mesenchymal stroma, but eventually develops both endodermal and ectodermal derivatives with airway lining enterocytes, thyroid brain and skin appendages. Primary teratoma of the fallopian tube is extremely uncommon. At the present time, only about 58 cases have been reported in the literature, including 1 from Taiwan. The majority of the cases occurred in patients in their 40s, and were cystic, showing great variation in size. The first case in Taiwan, which we have described, was a solid teratoma in the intraluminal location of the fallopian tube associated with intrauterine leiomyomas. Histologically, they are similar to teratoma of the ovary and elsewhere. This 45-year-old woman underwent laparoscopy for intrauterine leiomyoma clinically diagnosed after a significant period of abdominal pain and dysmenorrhea, with ultrasound findings of leiomyoma of the uterus. The benign teratoma of the fallopian tube was distended by cheese-like material, found during surgery. Left salpingectomy was performed. The finding was confirmed by pathology. Herein, we have presented the first case of benign solid teratoma of the left fallopian tube associated with intrauterine leiomyomas.

In conclusion, benign teratomas are the most common of all ovarian neoplasms, and represent a diverse group of tumors that may develop at other sites. They develop from a totipotential stem cell. Most importantly, the diversity of teratoma behavior probably reflects the different biological potentials of various stem cells, including germ cells and pluripotent embryonic cells. Benign teratoma of the fallopian tube associated with intramural leiomyoma is extremely rare. If the tumor is not large enough, preoperative diagnosis is difficult. Prognosis is favorable following complete surgical excision. About 5–10% of dermoids (mature teratomas) undergo malignant transformation of any one of the component elements (e.g. adenocarcinoma, choriocarcinoma, thyroid carcinoma, melanoma, but most commonly squamous cell carcinoma).

**References**