

UNIT 5: NEOPLASIA

Educational Topic 55: Ovarian Neoplasms

Rationale: Adnexal masses are a common finding in both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. Appropriate evaluation is essential in the differentiation between benign and malignant neoplasms.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

A student should be able to:

- Describe the initial management of a patient with an adnexal mass
- Compare the characteristics of functional cysts, benign ovarian neoplasms and ovarian cancers
- List the risk factors and protective factors for ovarian cancer
- Describe the symptoms and physical findings associated with ovarian cancer
- Describe the three histological categories of ovarian neoplasms

TEACHING CASE

CASE: A 48 year-old G3P3 woman comes to the office for a health maintenance exam. She is in good health and has no concerns. She had three normal vaginal deliveries and underwent a tubal ligation after the birth of her third child 15 years ago. She has no history of abnormal Pap smears or sexually transmitted infections. Her cycles are regular and her last menstrual period was 18 days ago. She is not taking any medications. Her family history is significant for a maternal aunt who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at age 60. On examination, she has normal vital signs. Her heart, lung and abdominal exams are normal. On pelvic examination, she has normal external genitalia, vagina and cervix. On bimanual exam, she has a slightly enlarged uterus and a palpable 6 cm mobile, non-tender right adnexal mass which is confirmed on the rectovaginal exam.

COMPETENCY-BASED DISCUSSION & KEY TEACHING POINTS:

Competencies addressed:

- Patient Care
- Medical Knowledge
- Systems-Based Practice

1. What is the next step in the management of this patient?

How would your approach be different if the patient was postmenopausal at 62 years of age?

2. You obtain an ultrasound which shows a 6 cm right complex ovarian cyst. What is your differential diagnosis?

3. What risk factors does this patient have for ovarian cancer?

4. List elements of the history and physical examination, which would help support the diagnosis of ovarian cancer.

REFERENCES

Beckman CRB, et al. Obstetrics and Gynecology. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2013.

Hacker NF, Moore JG, et al. Essentials of Obstetrics and Gynecology. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2010.

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