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Wilms' Tumor as a Differential Diagnosis in Acute Abdominal Pain in Childhood: A Case Report

Abstract:

Wilms' tumor, or nephroblastoma, is the most common malignant renal neoplasm in childhood, usually diagnosed before the age of five. It most often presents as asymptomatic abdominal enlargement, but may manifest with pain, hematuria, or compressive symptoms. We report the case of a previously healthy 4-year-old male patient who presented to the pediatric emergency room complaining of abdominal pain and an episode of vomiting on the same day. The mother reported a progressive increase in abdominal volume for several days, associated with oliguria and reduced bowel movements, without fever. Physical examination revealed abdominal distension and a palpable mass in the left flank and iliac fossa, with well-defined borders and painless on palpation. A computed tomography (CT) scan of the abdomen and pelvis revealed a large oval mass involving the left kidney and extending to the ipsilateral iliac fossa, consistent with a renal expansion process. Based on these findings, the patient was admitted for diagnostic follow-up, and a biopsy of the lesion was indicated, with a suspected diagnosis of Wilms' tumor. This case reinforces the importance of considering neoplastic causes, such as nephroblastoma, in the differential diagnosis of abdominal pain or enlargement in children, even in the absence of systemic signs or fever, highlighting the fundamental role of clinical suspicion and early imaging for appropriate diagnosis and management.

Biography

Nathalia Fragoso is a medical professional from Brazil with a clinical interest in pediatric oncology and emergency care. Her recent work includes a case study highlighting Wilms' tumor as an important differential diagnosis in children presenting with acute abdominal pain. She is dedicated to improving early recognition and management of pediatric malignancies through clinical reporting and research.