



Retroperitoneal Paraganglioma: Single Institution Experience and Review of the Literature

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DESCRIPTION

Incidental retroperitoneal paragangliomas are a type of rare tumors that can occur in the retroperitoneal region, which is the area behind the abdominal cavity. These tumors originate from the neural crest cells and are typically non-cancerous. However, like any tumor, they can have side effects and complications, which can vary depending on the size and location of the tumor. In this article, we will discuss some of the side effects of incidental retroperitoneal paragangliomas. Firstly, it is important to understand that most retroperitoneal paragangliomas are asymptomatic, which means that they do not cause any symptoms or side effects. They are often discovered incidentally, during routine imaging tests for other medical conditions. In fact, according to some studies, up to 50% of retroperitoneal paragangliomas are discovered incidentally. However, in some cases, incidental retroperitoneal paragangliomas can cause symptoms and complications, which can be related to the size and location of the tumor. For example, larger tumors can compress nearby structures, such as the renal vessels, ureter, and inferior vena cava, leading to complications such as hypertension, renal dysfunction, and venous thrombosis. In addition, tumors that are located in close proximity to the sympathetic nervous system can secrete catecholamines, which can lead to symptoms such as headaches, palpitations, and sweating. One of the most common side effects of incidental retroperitoneal paragangliomas is hypertension, which is high blood pressure. Hypertension can occur when the tumor secretes catecholamines, which are hormones that regulate blood pressure and heart rate. Catecholamines can cause the blood vessels to constrict, which increases the blood pressure. In addition, catecholamines can also increase the heart rate, which can cause palpitations and other symptoms. Another side effect of incidental retroperitoneal paragangliomas is renal dysfunction, which is a decrease in kidney function. This can occur when

the tumor compresses the renal vessels or the ureter, which are the tubes that connect the kidneys to the bladder. Compression of the renal vessels can lead to a decrease in blood flow to the kidneys, which can cause kidney damage. Compression of the ureter can lead to urinary obstruction, which can cause kidney damage and increase the risk of infection. Venous thrombosis is another potential complication of incidental retroperitoneal paragangliomas. Venous thrombosis occurs when a blood clot forms in the veins, which can lead to swelling, pain, and other symptoms. Retroperitoneal paragangliomas can compress the inferior vena cava, which is the large vein that carries blood from the lower body to the heart. Compression of the inferior vena cava can lead to venous stasis, which is a decrease in blood flow in the veins, and increase the risk of venous thrombosis. In addition to these side effects and complications, incidental retroperitoneal paragangliomas can also cause other symptoms, such as abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. These symptoms can occur when the tumor compresses the nearby organs, such as the stomach and intestines. Compression of the stomach can lead to decreased appetite, abdominal pain, and nausea. Compression of the intestines can lead to constipation, abdominal pain, and bloating. The treatment of incidental retroperitoneal paragangliomas depends on several factors, such as the size and location of the tumor, the age and overall health of the patient, and the presence of any symptoms or complications. In general, small tumors that are asymptomatic can be monitored with regular imaging.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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