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Diagnostic problems in uterine smooth muscle tumors



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"Ljudevit Jurak" Clinical Department of Pathology, Clinical Hospital Center "Sestre milosrdnice", Zagreb Institute of Pathology, University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatia Leiomyosarcoma (LMS) – rare, 1/800 specimens clinically thought to be LM

- Solitary, poorly circumscribed mass, large (averaging 10 cm)
- If the uterus contains several tumour nodules, LMS is usually the largest one
- The cut surface is typically fleshy, cream or tan, with obvious areas of haemorrhage or necrosis



LMS – diagnostic criteria 1. ATYPIA 2. NECROSIS 3. MITOSES In the classic (spindle cell) LMS, the malignancy is diagnosed when any 2 of the criteria are established

At low magnification - ATYPIA must be obvious (diffuse)



At low magnification - NECROSIS – "geographic"





- coagulative necrosis of the tumour tissue that has outgrown its blood supply
- NOT A SPECIAL TYPE
 OF NECROSIS
- THE CONSTELATION
 OF FINDINGS



Leiomyosarcoma (LMS) -"TUMOUR CELL NECROSIS"

- 1. Abrupt transition from necrosis to non-necrotic tissue
- 2. Pleomorphic & hyperchromatic nuclei - frequently seen in necrotic areas
- Perivascular preservation of viable tumour cells





"tumour cell necrosis" vs. "hyaline necrosis"



MITOSES 10 or more/10 HPFs



AND PARNESSOF

MITOSES

• Misinterpretation

- apoptotic cells
- pyknotic nuclei
- lymphocytes, mast cells
- precipitated haematoxylin or cellular debris



• Strict mitotic count

- absence of nuclear membrane with discernible cytoplasm
 - presence of hairy
 extensions of chromatin
 extending from a central
 clotlike mass of
 chromosomes (single clot
 in metaphase or separate
 in telophase)

In the classic (spindle cell) LMS, the diagnosis of malignancy is established when

1. NUCLEAR ATYPIA diffuse, moderate to severe AND 2. THE MITOTIC COUNT >10/10 HPF 1. NUCLEAR ATYPIA diffuse or multifocal, moderate to severe AND 2. TUMOR CELL NECROSIS AND 3. THE MITOTIC COUNT ≥10/10 HPF

UNCOMMONLY

1. NUCLEAR ATYPIA

minimal or absent

AND

2. TUMOR CELL NECROSIS

AND 3. THE MITOTIC COUNT ≥10/10HPF

+ infiltrative margin



Ancillary methods - IHC



Rare & very rare LMS variants – Myxoid LMS ANY OF THE

- Myxoid LMS
- Grossly gelatinous
- Micro cells spindle or stellate, abundant ECM (Alcian blue positive)



FOLLOWING:

NO ATYPIA NO TUMOR CELL NECROSIS AND MITOSES: > 2/10 HPF

DESTRUCTIVE INFILTRATION OF THE SURROUNDING MYOMETRIUM

Toledo G, Oliva E. Smooth muscle tumors of the uterus: a practical approach. Arch Pathol Lab Med 2008;132:595-605 Burch DM,Tavassoli FA. Myxoid leiomyosarcoma of the uterus Histopathology 2011;59:1144–55

Rare & very rare LMS variants – Epithelioid LMS

 More than 50% of cells have to have epithelioid appearence

CRITERIA PREDICTIVE OF MALIGNANCY ARE LESS WELL ESTABLISHED

ATYPIA difffuse, moderate to severe AND TUMOR CELL NECROSIS AND MITOSES: ≥ 5/10 HPF

Atkins K, Bell S, Kempson R, et al. Epithelioid smooth muscle tumors of the uterus. Mod Pathol 2001;14:132A Tavassoli FA, Devilee P. Pathology and Genetics of Tumors of the Breast and Female Genital Organs, WHO Classification of Tumors. Lyon: WHO; 2003.

STUMP (Smooth Muscle Tumor of Uncertain Malignant Potential)

- Definition WHO
- A smooth muscle tumour that cannot be diagnosed reliably as benign or malignant on the basis of generally applied criteria



- Uncertainty about the type of necrosis
- The mitotic rate is elevated but not to the level diagnostic of LMS
- Uncertainty about the histologic variant (epithelioid or myxoid)



a clinicopathologic analysis of 16 cases. Am J Surg Pathol 2009; 33: 992-1005

Some LM variants grossly display changed colour and/or consistency, evoking suspicion

In these cases, extensive sampling, especially of unusual areas of the tumour, is **MANDATORY**

Cellular (highly cellular) LM



Mitotically active LM

- Typical or cellular LM (usually < 10 cm) showing an increased mitotic activity
- 4 20 mitoses/10 HPF (commonly between 5 and 9)
- Usually associated with:
 - the secretory phase of the cycle
 - pregnancy
 - the use of exogenous hormones
 - 60% submucosal localisation
 - superficial ulceration possible reparative nuclear atypia, mitoses, necrosis (not TCN)

LM with bizarre nuclei (symplastic, atypical, bizarre LM)



usually up to 2 mitoses/10 HPF (in the absence of TCN - 7/10 HPF)

Hydropic LM - NOT myxoid LM

- Accumulation of oedema fluid
- The smooth muscle component is reduced to thin cords
- Formation of pseudocystic spaces
- dd/ Myxoid LM myxoid areas stain basophilic with Alcian blue



LM variants - rare



up to 1MF/10 HPF

Uterine artery embolisation (polyvinyl alcohol)











- Most smooth muscle tumors of the uterus are LEIOMYOMAS
- Gross appearence is important (if unsual extensive sampling)
- Features to be assessed:
- ATYPIA AT LOW MAGNIFICATION
- GEOGRAPHIC (TC) NECROSIS
- NUMBER OF MITOSES (>=10/10HPF)
- To diagnose a LMS at least 2 features



- IHC can SOMETIMES be helpful
- LM
 - ER, PR positive
 - Ki-67(MIB-1) low (< 30%)
 - p53 absent or minimal (< 30%)
 - -p16 negative
- Avoid the diagnosis of STUMP





- Insist on clinical informations
 - pregnancy
 - the phase of the menstrual cycle
 - any medication (exogenous hormones, OC, GnHR)
- In a curettage specimen or intraoperative (frozen section) analysis the definitive diagnosis of malignancy should be avoided

