### Contents

#### OPINION REVIEW

3136  Impacts and challenges of United States medical students during the COVID-19 pandemic  
*Rolak S, Keefe AM, Davidson EL, Aryal P, Parajuli S*

3142  Recent advances in the management of gastrointestinal stromal tumor  
*Ahmed M*

3156  Medical research during the COVID-19 pandemic  
*AlNaamani K, AlSinani S, Barkun AN*

#### REVIEW

3164  Progress of intravoxel incoherent motion diffusion-weighted imaging in liver diseases  

#### MINIREVIEWS

3177  Typical and atypical COVID-19 computed tomography findings  

3188  Review of possible psychological impacts of COVID-19 on frontline medical staff and reduction strategies  
*Fu XW, Wu LN, Shan L*

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**Clinical and Translational Research**

3197  Overexpression of AMPD2 indicates poor prognosis in colorectal cancer patients *via* the Notch3 signaling pathway  
*Gao QZ, Qin Y, Wang WJ, Fei BJ, Han WF, Jin JQ, Gao X*

**Case Control Study**

3209  Effect of motivational interviewing on postoperative weight control in patients with obstructive sleep apnea-hypopnea syndrome  
*Sun XH, Xue PS, Qi XX, Fan L*

**Retrospective Study**

3218  Thalidomide for refractory gastrointestinal bleeding from vascular malformations in patients with significant comorbidities  
*Bayudan AM, Chen CH*
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3230</td>
<td>Colorectal adenocarcinoma patients with M1a diseases gain more clinical benefits from palliative primary tumor resection than those with M1b diseases: A propensity score matching analysis</td>
<td>Li CL, Tang DR, Ji J, Zang B, Chen C, Zhao JQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Clinical Trials Study</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3249</td>
<td>Comparison of measurements of anterior chamber angle via anterior segment optical coherence tomography and ultrasound biomicroscopy</td>
<td>Yu ZY, Huang T, Lu L, Qu B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Observational Study</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3259</td>
<td>Dydrogesterone treatment for menstrual-cycle regularization in abnormal uterine bleeding – ovulation dysfunction patients</td>
<td>Wang L, Guan HY, Xia HX, Chen XY, Zhang W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CASE REPORT</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3267</td>
<td>Multi-organ IgG4-related disease continues to mislead clinicians: A case report and literature review</td>
<td>Strainiene S, Sarlauskas L, Savlian I, Liakina V, Stundiene I, Valantinas J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3291</td>
<td>Successful management of tubular colonic duplication using a laparoscopic approach: A case report and review of the literature</td>
<td>Li GB, Han JG, Wang ZJ, Zhai ZW, Tao Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3299</td>
<td>Hypothyroidism with elevated pancreatic amylase and lipase without clinical symptoms: A case report</td>
<td>Xu YW, Li R, Xu SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3320</td>
<td>Isolated metachronous splenic multiple metastases after colon cancer surgery: A case report and literature review</td>
<td>Hu L, Zhu JY, Fang L, Yu XC, Yan ZL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3334</td>
<td>Coexistence of ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma and type A insulin resistance syndrome in a 14-year-old girl: A case report</td>
<td>Yan FF, Huang BK, Chen YL, Zhuang YZ, You XY, Liu CQ, Li XJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3349</td>
<td>Computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and F-deoxyglucose positron emission computed tomography/computed tomography findings of alveolar soft part sarcoma with calcification in the thigh: A case report</td>
<td>Wu ZJ, Bian TT, Zhan XH, Dong C, Wang YL, Xu WJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3355</td>
<td>COVID-19 with asthma: A case report</td>
<td>Liu AL, Xu N, Li AJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3365</td>
<td>Total laparoscopic segmental gastrectomy for gastrointestinal stromal tumors: A case report</td>
<td>Ren YX, He M, Ye PC, Wei SJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABOUT COVER

Editorial Board Member of World Journal of Clinical Cases, Dr. Romano is Professor of Medicine-Gastroenterology at the University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” in Naples, Italy. Dr. Romano received his MD degree cum Laude at the University Federico II in Naples, Italy in 1980 and, after 4 year of Post-Graduate course, he became Specialist in Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. Dr. Romano's research interest was on the cross-talk between H. pylori and gastric epithelial cells, and presently is mainly focused on H. pylori eradication therapy and on the role of nutraceuticals in gastrointestinal diseases. Dr. Romano is presently the Chief of the Endoscopy and Chronic Inflammatory Gastrointestinal Disorders Unit, and Teacher at the University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” in Naples, Italy.

AIMS AND SCOPE

The primary aim of World Journal of Clinical Cases (WJCC, World J Clin Cases) is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of clinical medicine with a platform to publish high-quality clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

WJCC mainly publishes articles reporting research results and findings obtained in the field of clinical medicine and covering a wide range of topics, including case control studies, retrospective cohort studies, retrospective studies, clinical trials studies, observational studies, prospective studies, randomized controlled trials, randomized clinical trials, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, and case reports.

INDEXING/ABSTRACTING

The WJCC is now indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch®), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, PubMed, and PubMed Central. The 2020 Edition of Journal Citation Reports® cites the 2019 impact factor (IF) for WJCC as 1.013; IF without journal self cites: 0.991; Ranking: 120 among 165 journals in medicine, general and internal; and Quartile category: Q3.

RESPONSIBLE EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Electronic Editor: Yan-Xia Xing; Production Department Director: Yun-Xiaoqian Wu; Editorial Office Director: Jin-Lei Wang.
Coexistence of ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma and type A insulin resistance syndrome in a 14-year-old girl: A case report

Fang-Fang Yan, Bing-Kun Huang, Yin-Ling Chen, Yan-Zhen Zhuang, Xue-Ye You, Chang-Qin Liu, Xue-Jun Li

BACKGROUND
Type A insulin resistance syndrome is a rare disorder caused by mutations in the gene encoding the insulin receptor. Its coexistence with ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma is even rarer.

CASE SUMMARY
A 14-year-old girl developed type A insulin resistance syndrome and showed high fasting insulin, glucose, and hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) levels. The girl suffered from ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma. The laboratory results were as follows: fasting insulin was 2624.90 pmol/L and HbA1c was 8.5%. A heterozygous missense mutation on exon 20 of the insulin receptor gene (c.3601C>T, Arg1201Trp) was observed. The histopathological diagnosis was a cystic lesion that extended to the upper right uterus, indicating a right ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma accompanied by focal interstitial hyperplasia. The patient was treated with metformin for over 6 mo. Additionally, laparoscopic resection (bilateral) of the ovarian lesion and laparoscopic intestinal adhesiolysis were performed under general anesthesia. Diet therapy combined with exercise was then initiated. The patient had an uneventful recovery. The patient also showed improved blood glucose control, with reduced levels of fasting insulin (857.84 pmol/L) and HbA1c (7.0%).

CONCLUSION
Insulin resistance may play a significant role in the induction of tumors. It is important to investigate further the association between insulin resistance and tumors and the underlying mechanism.
INTRODUCTION

Type A insulin resistance syndrome (TAIRS), which is similar to Rabson-Mendenhall syndrome and Leprechaunism syndrome, is a rare disorder caused by mutations in the gene encoding the insulin receptor[1]. It is usually diagnosed in lean adolescent girls accompanied by hirsutism, oligomenorrhea, acne, and acanthosis nigricans. In contrast to Rabson-Mendenhall syndrome and Leprechaunism syndrome, which are characterized by several phenotypes including intrauterine and postnatal growth retardation, dysmorphic features, and early mortality, TAIRS is relatively mild. Ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma is also an infrequent disorder that contains both epithelial and fibrous stromal components and is mainly found in women aged from 15 years to 65 years. Here, we present an unusual case of TAIRS coexisting with an ovarian cystadenofibroma in a 14-year-old girl. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case to report such a combination.

CASE PRESENTATION

Chief complaints

A 14-year-old girl was transferred to our outpatient department with symptoms including hirsutism and acanthosis nigricans, which had been noted since the age of 10 years. Her birth weight was 2.75 kg at a gestational age of 40 wk. Secondary sex characteristics and accelerated growth occurred from the age of 13 but without menarche.

Physical examinations upon admission

Physical examination revealed that her body mass index was 18.1 kg/m². The Ferriman-Gallwey score was 19 (average 5). Clinical symptoms, laboratory indices, and treatment of the patient during 2018-2019 are shown in Figure 1. Evidence of acanthosis nigricans was observed in the neck and axillae (Figure 2A-C). Examination of the genitalia disclosed a mild clitoromegaly.

Laboratory examination

A 75-g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) showed that plasma glucose was 5.7, 10.8, 13.8, and 16.7 mmol/L at 0, 0.5-, 1-, and 2-h, respectively. Serum insulin concentrations were 1220.6, 2594.9, 3649.9, and 6958.3 pmol/L, respectively. Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) level was 8.3%. Hormone tests showed an elevated testosterone level at 82.85 ng/mL, (reference range 14-76 ng/mL). Molecular analysis showed a heterozygous missense mutation on exon 20 of the insulin receptor gene (Arg1201Trp) (Figure 3A). Furthermore, the patient’s phenotype matched the common genotypes of the mutation occurring in the insulin receptor gene. Chromosome test revealed a 46, XX karyotype.
Yan FF et al. Type A insulin resistance with tumor

Figure 1  Clinical symptoms and laboratory indices in the 14-year-old girl patient. “↑” indicates above the normal range; “↓” indicates below the normal range. TSTO: Testosterone; CDU: Color Doppler ultrasound; Ins: Insulin; GLU: Glucose; HbA1c: Hemoglobin A1c; SCCA: Squamous cell carcinoma antigen.

Imaging examination
No masses were identified on abdominal palpation. Pelvic sonography showed an 8.0 cm × 6.3 cm cystic lesion that extended to the upper right uterus, which appeared to originate from the ovary (Figure 2D). In addition, the cystic lesion included a larger quasi-circular anechoic area (1.4 cm × 1.2 cm) (Figure 2E). There was no free or circumscribed fluid in the pelvis. Patient was suspected to have an ovarian tumor.

Family history
Her father was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes by the 75-g OGTT (fasting glucose, 14.3 mmol/L and postprandial, 26.7 mmol/L). He did not show any common clinical features of TAIRS. His blood glucose was well controlled with metformin 500 mg three times a day. Her mother’s glucose level was normal by 75-g OGTT (Table 1). Fasting plasma glucose and fasting insulin level in her younger brother were 4.27 mmol/L and 212.67 pmol/L, respectively. The family history of diabetes is shown in Figure 4. Her father underwent genetic analyses and showed a heterozygous missense mutation on exon 20 of the insulin receptor gene (Arg1201Trp) (Figure 3B). Her mother was normal in the genetic analyses (Figure 3C).

FINAL DIAGNOSIS
Based on her clinical features, blood glucose, and insulin level, the patient was diagnosed with TAIRS. Final histopathological diagnosis of postsurgical tissue showed a right ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma accompanied by focal interstitial hyperplasia (Figure 2F and G).

TREATMENT
The patient took metformin for over 6 mo to treat TAIRS. Furthermore, laparoscopic resection (bilateral) of the ovarian lesion and laparoscopic intestinal adhesiolysis were performed under general anesthesia.

OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP
Fasting insulin level decreased to 857.84 pmol/L and HbA1c level dropped to 7.0%.
Table 1 Glucose and insulin levels of parents

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<th>0 min</th>
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<th>60 min</th>
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<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Glucose in mmol/L</td>
<td>14.33</td>
<td>19.88</td>
<td>26.72</td>
<td>28.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insulin in pmol/L</td>
<td>148.35</td>
<td>176.44</td>
<td>325.94</td>
<td>315.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose in mmol/L</td>
<td>5.38</td>
<td>8.04</td>
<td>8.73</td>
<td>6.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insulin in pmol/L</td>
<td>45.82</td>
<td>269.79</td>
<td>372.97</td>
<td>279.81</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 Clinical characteristics, genetic diagnosis, and histopathological diagnosis in this patient. A: Axillary skin is hairy, dark, coarse, and warty, with small papillae; B: The skin on the neck is black, thickened, rough, and warty, with small papillae; C: Whiskers are present on the upper lip; D: A cystic lesion was found at the upper right side of the uterus, approximately 8.0 cm × 6.3 cm, with well-defined borders; E: The cystic lesion included a larger quasi-circular anechoic area, approximately 1.4 cm × 1.2 cm; F: The nodular mass of the right ovary is cystic and solid in section, with a pale brown solid area approximately 1.5 cm × 1.2 cm × 0.8 cm in size; G: Right ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma accompanied by focal interstitial hyperplasia (hematoxylin-eosin, × 40).

Menstruation was not recorded during or after treatment. The patient had an uneventful recovery. Outpatient follow-up indicated that the patient was following the doctor’s advice by controlling her diet, taking her daily medicine, and exercising.
Figure 3 Heterozygous mutation of the insulin receptor was observed in the patient and her father, as detected by Sanger sequencing (A-C). A missense variant exists in exon 20 (c.3601C>T [p.Arg1201Trp]).

Figure 4 Family history of diabetes.

DISCUSSION

In this study, we report the first case of TAIRS coexisting with an ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma. TAIRS is one of three severe insulin resistance syndromes and is relatively mild. The patient showed hyperandrogenism, hyperinsulinemia, acanthosis nigricans, hirsutism, and diabetes mellitus but without the dysmorphic characteristic of leprechaunism or Rabson-Mendenhall syndrome. Moreover, genetic screening identified a single heterozygous mutation involving the tyrosine kinase domain in the β subunit of the insulin receptor gene. To date, more than 100 disease-causing mutations have been identified\(^2\), and the phenotype usually varies in patients...
with different gene mutations\(^3\). The Arg1201Trp mutation that was identified in our patient has previously been reported in patients with severe syndromes of insulin resistance, such as leprechaunism and Rabson-Mendenhall syndrome\(^3\), but has not been found in patient with TAIRS. Thus, the phenotype attributed to the mutation of the same gene locus can also be inconsistent.

There is a lack of large-scale, long-term, randomized controlled studies focusing on the treatment and prognosis of TAIRS to guide treatment choice in clinical practice. Treatment of TAIRS is usually empirical and lacks evidence. Many medications, including metformin, thiazolidinediones, acarbose, and leptin, have been used in patients with severe insulin resistance syndrome\(^3\). In China, metformin is the only oral antidiabetic agent approved for use in patients under the age of 14 years. In our case, the patient was treated with metformin for 6 mo, and fasting serum insulin level decreased from 1220.55 pmol/L to 857.84 pmol/L, and HbA1c level decreased by 1.3%. This indicated that metformin had a partial effect and can improve insulin sensitivity to a certain degree, as reported previously\(^11\). Despite acceptable control during adolescence, long-term metabolic control has been reported to be poor and diabetes complications are frequent in TAIRS patients\(^10\). Therefore, other than metformin, several future-proof treatments such as metreleptin, sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor, and incretin\(^10\) should be introduced during childhood.

Ovarian cystadenofibroma accounts for 1.7% of all benign ovarian tumors\(^14\) that originate in the epithelium, which are classified as serous, endometrioid, mucinous, clear cell, and mixed categories. Ovarian cystadenofibroma is usually asymptomatic and is found incidentally, as in our case. A cystadenofibroma may show a solitary cyst or a multiloculated cystic mass, with solid nodules or papillary projections, and almost half of cases demonstrate increased vascularity on ultrasonography\(^15\). Clinically, because ovarian cystadenofibroma is a multicystic mass with solid components, preoperative differential diagnosis is important to distinguish it from malignant neoplasms. A computed tomography scan also provides limited information in the evaluation of this tumor. A frozen section diagnosis may be helpful in these cases and may help to avoid an extensive surgical procedure. The patient in this study had two rarely diagnosed conditions. It is unknown whether there is a correlation between these two rare diseases. Insulin can activate both the insulin receptor and insulin-like growth factor receptor, particularly at high concentrations, to promote tumor cell proliferation and migration, which possibly plays a critical role in tumor development and progression\(^16,17\). Previous studies suggest that exogenous insulin exposure is significantly associated with an increased incidence of cancer\(^18\). Although a high insulin level may be related to ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma onset and/or progression, the mechanism remains unclear. Further study is required to determine the mechanistic details associated with the connection between TAIRS and ovarian cystadenofibroma.

In this report, we highlight the rare coexistence of TAIRS and an ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma. However, this study also had some limitations. First, there was an over 1-mo delaying in treating TAIRS as the patient underwent surgery. Second, the patient’s ovarian cysts were surgically treated more than 1 year after diagnosis.

**CONCLUSION**

We report the first case of TAIRS coexisting with an ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma in a 14-year-old girl. We found that metformin had partial efficacy in TAIRS and improved insulin sensitivity to a certain extent. With respect to the ovarian serous papillary cystadenofibroma, cystectomy should be performed after puberty to prevent the risk of tumor development in the ovaries. The clinicopathological results support the notions that insulin may play a critical role in tumor development and progression.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to thank all of the patient, doctors, nurses, and technicians involved at our center for their dedication to the study.
REFERENCES


