Giant Retroperitoneal Liposarcoma with Multi-Organ Involvement

**Abstract**

Retroperitoneal liposarcomas are very rare tumors with poor prognosis. The diagnosis can be delayed since there are no specific symptoms and findings. Surgical resection is the primary treatment choice. Obtaining negative surgical margins should be the primary aim. Multiple organ resections may be essential in cases with huge liposarcoma and incomplete resection leads to local recurrences. There is still an ongoing controversy in the medical treatment of liposarcoma. In this study we presented a patient with liposarcoma who was advised for surgery due to retroperitoneal mass 2 years ago but refused so the mass grew to a huge size invading left kidney, left adrenal gland and left mesocolon. We aimed to point out organ invasion and huge masses of liposarcoma are not contraindications for resection, and resections of these huge tumors improve quality of life. All retroperitoneal masses should be aggressively excised and patients should be closely followed up.

**Keywords**

Retroperitoneal Liposarcoma; Soft Tissue Sarcomas; Surgical Treatment

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**Özet**


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Retroperitoneal Liposarkom; Yumuşak Doku Tümörleri; Cerrahi Tedavi

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Introduction
Retroperitoneal liposarcomas make up 0.1% to 0.2% of all malignant tumors and 15% of all sarcomas. Liposarcomas are the most common type of retroperitoneal sarcomas (41%). It is followed by leiomyosarcomas, malignant fibrous histiocytomas, fibrosarcomas and other undifferentiated sarcomas [1]. Retroperitoneal masses present with nonspecific findings. This delays diagnosis until the tumor reaches enormous sizes. For diagnosis, computerized tomography and magnetic resonance imaging gives information about the location and structure of the mass. Surgical excision is the golden standard for treatment [2,3].

In this study we presented a retroperitoneal liposarcoma case in which the patient was diagnosed as retroperitoneal mass and advised for surgery but refused to be operated so the mass grew to a huge size. The patient who could not walk and meet her own needs due to giant mass started walking and taking care of himself without any help after the surgery.

Case Report
History of 56 years old female patient hospitalized in our clinic with the diagnosis of giant retroperitoneal mass revealed that 2 years ago she attended a medical facility with abdominal pain and abdominal distention complaints where a retroperitoneal mass of 5 cm of size have been found and she was advised to be operated. But at that time by own will, the patient did not accept to be operated. She attended our clinic as the mass continued growing, and made the patient unable to walk and meet her own needs for the last 6 months.

Physical examination revealed severely distended abdomen (Picture 1). The patient who was unable to stand up and walk due to the mass had sensitivity in all abdominal quadrants. Defense and rebound were not seen. Biochemical studies and complete blood count were normal. Abdominal tomography showed gigantic mass lesion, localized in the left flank, neighborhood by multiple solid mass lesions with the largest being 55x32 cm in size, accompanied by increase in surrounding fat tissue and dense inhomogenities at the mesentry and displacing all abdominal organs to the right side (Picture 2). Additionally solid mass lesions of varying sizes and similar characters have been seen neighboring the lower lobe of the left kidney and inside the increased fat tissue (retroperitoneal malignant tumor? liposarcoma?). Thorax tomography did not reveal any pathology.

After completion of pre-operative preparations, the patient was operated. Due to the effect of giant retroperitoneal mass, right sided displacement of intraabdominal organs were seen. The mass had completely surrounded the left kidney and invaded the left mesocolon. Whereupon, excision of the mass, left hemicolectomy including its mesenter and left radical nephrectomy have been performed. The continuity of colon has been provided by end to end anastomosis (Picture 3).

After a short time following the surgery, the patient started to walk and meet her own needs without any assistance. The patient who did not develop any post-operative complications was discharged. During controls at post-operative 3rd, 6th and 12th months, recurrence has not been seen.

Discussion
Primary retroperitoneal tumors show poor prognosis. 5 years survival rates of 5-20% have increased up to 65% with wide resections and negative surgical margins during recent years [4]. So the aim of the treatment of retroperitoneal sarcomas should be providing negative surgical margins. Difficulties of this aim are; the complexity of retroperitoneal anatomy, large tumor size and invasion of some vital organs [5]. In our case, despite gigantic size and invasion of left mesocolon, left kidney and left adrenal gland of the tumor; we tried to reach negative surgical margins so the mass with all the organs invaded have
been excised.

For prognosis; tumor size greater than 10 cm, patient older than 50 years of age, resection margins and local recurrence are important factors to determine the survival of the patient. Local recurrence depends on; large tumor size during diagnosis, inability to provide negative surgical margins and limited effectiveness of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. For cases with local recurrence, surgery and radiotherapy are advised [3,4]. In our case despite having all the negative conditions for local recurrence; during 1 year of follow-up, recurrence has not been encountered. And this proves the importance of negative surgical margins once more.

For retroperitoneal tumors, surgical excision is the most important treatment method for prolonging the survival of the patient. Also as it was with this case, retroperitoneal masses can cause advance disruption in the quality of life by preventing the patients to walk and meet their own needs. Surgical treatment can be the best option for these patients. Consequently, all retroperitoneal masses should be aggressively excised and patients should be closely followed up using techniques like computerized tomography or magnetic resonance imaging for local recurrences.

**Competing interests**
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**References**

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