

Session/Poster#

Presenter

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Long-Term Medical Treatment of Endometriosis-Associated Ascites, A Case Report and Review of the Literature

Ascites is an exceedingly rare presentation of endometriosis with fewer than 200 documented cases worldwide. As endometriosis-associated ascites may mimic pelvic malignancies, especially ovarian carcinoma, it is imperative that clinicians are aware of this rare disease entity, especially in the case of a reproductive-aged patient who presents with ascites of unknown etiology. Accurate and expedient diagnosis of endometriosis-associated ascites may save a patient from unwanted and unnecessary surgical intervention and potential loss of reproductive function.

While endometriosis-associated ascites remain a rare condition, its prevalence and rate of documentation in the literature are increasing. A literature search was conducted on EMBASE using the keywords 'endometriosis' AND 'ascites' which resulted in 536 publications, of which 145 were included for analysis and yielded a total of 159 patients who presented with endometriosis-associated ascites worldwide. We collected data and identified trends in patient demographics, initial presentation, treatments and interventions, and disease course. Most (62%) patients received a combination of surgical and medical management, 21% received surgery alone, and 15% received only medical treatment. Of the patients included, 89% presented with abdominal distention, 49% had dysmenorrhea, and 31% had weight loss.

The diagnosis and treatment of extra-pelvic endometriosis and its various effects including ascites is difficult due to a paucity of published data and the spectrum of clinical presentations involved. Herein, we present two cases of endometriosis-associated ascites both effectively treated with long-term use of norethindrone acetate. Our patients have been symptom-free without recurrence of their ascites for over 13 years and 3 years, respectively, the longest documented resolution of endometriosis-associated ascites in the literature to date.