

Abdominal cerebrospinal fluid pseudocyst: a comparative analysis between children and adults

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Received: 30 November 2013 / Accepted: 15 January 2014 / Published online: 29 January 2014
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Abstract

Purpose Abdominal cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) pseudocyst is a rare but important complication in patients with ventriculoperitoneal shunt (VPS). In addition to presenting our experience, we performed a comparative analysis between children and adults with this entity. To the author's knowledge, there are no studies in which this condition has been compared.

Methods The PubMed database was searched for all relevant reports published from 1954 to 2012. The differences were statistically compared, especially regarding clinical investigations, etiology of the hydrocephalus, shunt revision, CSF infection, treatment, and recurrence. Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test was used to find associations among the variables.

Results Compiled from literature, we found 393 cases of abdominal pseudocyst: 295 children, including our cases, and 55 adults, with age not informed in 43 cases. In children, 33 % of the patients have a positive culture on presentation, with higher incidence in children younger than 10 years. In contrast, only 15 % among adults were positive CSF culture. In total, 287 abdominal pseudocyst cases who underwent shunt revision have been reported; 78.4 % of children and 62.2 % of adults. The main occurrence of this complication according to the etiology of hydrocephalus in children was different from adults. The recurrence of pseudocyst occurred in 19.8 and 24.2 % of children and adults, respectively.

Conclusions The differences between children and adults might represent distinct trends on the etiology and treatment of this entity. Hence, additional well-designed cohort studies will be necessary to strengthen our findings.

Keywords Cerebrospinal fluid pseudocyst · Ventriculoperitoneal shunt · Shunt complication · Abdominal pseudocyst · Hydrocephalus

Introduction

The modern ventriculoperitoneal shunt (VPS) era started in 1948 by Cone, Lewis, and Jackson [26, 52] and later by Ames, who between 1950 and 1957 performed several polyethylene tubing VPS with almost unsatisfactory results [6, 7]. Now, VPS is the standard therapy for the management of hydrocephalus. However, as more patients with hydrocephalus survive and live longer, more complications developed [59]. Approximately 5 to 47 % of abdominal complications by VPS are reported [44, 71]. One of the less frequent but important complications is the abdominal CSF pseudocyst, with a reported rate of less than 1 % on all patients with shunt [14], although higher rates were reported as well [94]. Even more uncommon are hepatic [37, 62, 65, 66, 85, 95, 110] or splenic pseudocyst as a complication of VPS insertion [72].

The cyst is called pseudocyst because its walls consists only of peritoneal serous membrane, thickened by a chronic inflammatory process [18, 70]. The invasion of lymphocytes in the specimen may have suggested that the inflammatory reaction to the shunt tube was associated with cyst formation [80]. We agree with others who prefer the term "abdominal pseudocyst" [31, 84, 94, 98, 103, 105] rather than peritoneal [14, 18, 45, 52], intraperitoneal [75], or omental cyst [41].

The aim of this paper was to report a comparative analysis between children and adults with abdominal CSF pseudocyst

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on the clinical presentation, etiology of the hydrocephalus, rate of CSF infection and shunt revision, treatment, and results on the literature of the last 58 years. In this review, we have included five new cases treated at our institution (Figs. 1 and 2).

Methods

An analysis of the 502 shunt placement procedures performed for an 8-year period (January 2005 to December 2012) at our hospital, revealed that five patients developed abdominal CSF pseudocyst. Details of history, clinical features, radiological finding, cerebrospinal and abdominal CSF pseudocyst culture, and clinical outcomes were summarized (Table 1). In addition, the information for this review was retrieved from the author's files and the National Library of Medicine database (PubMed) for the period 1954–2012 using the following keywords: “intra-abdominal pseudocyst”, “cerebrospinal fluid pseudocyst”, “abdominal cerebrospinal fluid pseudocyst”, “peritoneal pseudocyst”, “intraperitoneal pseudocyst”, “omental cyst”, “shunt infection”, and “shunt complications.” In total, 100 articles of case–control studies, case reports, and case series were included in our revision (Table 2).

Our reviewed included 393 cases of abdominal pseudocyst related to the use of VPS. Because of the possible difference between children and adults, the analysis was performed for each subgroup, considering individuals younger than 19 years as children and individuals older than 19 years as adults. Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test was used to find associations among the variables and verified the odds ratio for recurrence related to the etiology of hydrocephalus, CSF infection and surgical treatment. The Stata software version 13.0 (Copyright

1985–2013; Stata Corp. LP, College Station, TX) was used for statistical analysis. A p value < 0.05 was considered significant.

Discussion

Epidemiology

Since Harsh [54] described in 1954 a periumbilical cyst associated among 12 ventriculofallopian shunts and Jackson and Snodgrass [60] also reported another case 1 year later, large series were published in the world literature [14, 36, 42, 52, 53, 63, 74, 94, 98], some of them in Latin America [31, 38, 102]. Our literature review included a total of 100 articles, including five cases of the current study, totaling 393 cases of abdominal CSF pseudocyst since the first case reported by Harsh [54] (Table 2). According to several authors, this condition accounted for approximately 0.25 to 10 % of all VPS [11, 14, 18, 36, 52, 71, 74, 94, 103]. In our series, abdominal pseudocyst formation represents only 1 % of all patients with VPS (5/502). However, the prevalence rate found in 21 case–control studies, including our study, recompiled from the literature was 2.3 % of the cases based on the total of patients evaluated, that is, 10,803 controls with 183 cases [4, 10, 11, 14, 18, 29, 33, 36, 49, 52, 53, 60, 71, 74, 90, 91, 94, 101, 103, 108].

Many authors have reported this complication in pediatric patients because hydrocephalus is more common in children. However, in a series, the child–adult ratio was 1.8:1 [94]. According to this survey, 295 children, including our cases, and 55 adults have been reported until 2012; age was not provided in 43 cases (Fig. 3). There are reports of abdominal CSF pseudocyst in a 75-year-old man and an 84-year-old woman [100, 109]; on the other hand, one of the youngest patients was 2 months old [94, 102]. In children, our study identified 48.2 % males and 51.8 % females, and among adults, 43 % males and 57 % females. We found a mean age of 7.2 ± 4.7 years in children; 80 % of the cases were younger than 10 years, and only 20 % were children between 10 and 19 years old. In adults, the mean age was 36.7 ± 15.1 years. We observed a proportion of 47.3 % of the cases for adults 30 years and younger and 52.7 % for adults older than 30 years (Table 3).

Predisposing factors

Although the etiology of abdominal CSF pseudocyst is not clear, different authors attribute cyst formation to several predisposing factors, with no clinical or scientific support. The most frequent factor is the inflammatory process, either sterile or infectious. In some patients, it could be an inflammatory response to some components of the shunting system or to a high concentration of protein in the peritoneal cavity

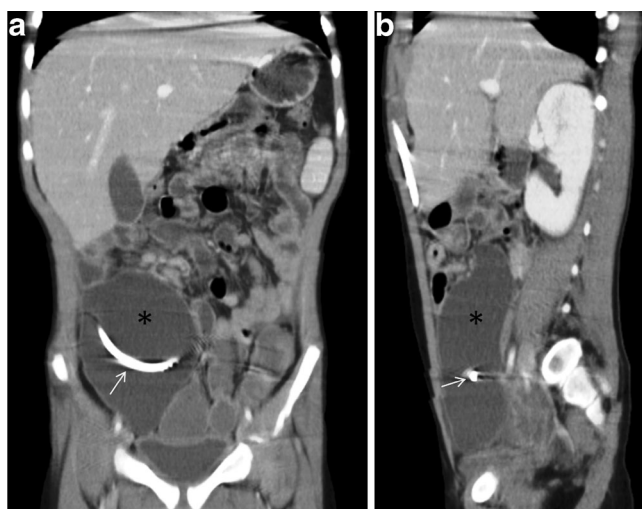
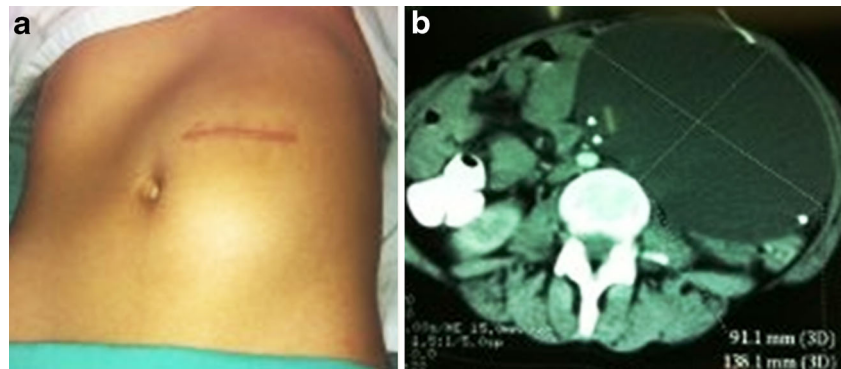


Fig. 1 **a** Abdominal CT scan (*coronal view*) showing a large abdominal pseudocyst (*asterisk*) with the distal segment of the VPS (*arrow*) located within the cyst. **b** Abdominal CT scan (*sagittal view*) demonstrating the pseudocyst (*asterisk*) pushing the bowls superiorly

Fig. 2 **a** Photograph showing an abdominal mass that regularly contoured at the left flank in the abdomen. **b** Abdominal CT scan showing a large cystic mass measuring 13×9 cm



[2, 28, 30], associated sometimes with an antigen–antibody reaction by an unidentified protein moiety in the CSF [8]. This hypothesis would explain the cases of abdominal pseudocyst in which CSF culture proved negative. Other predisposing causes are as follows: (a) prior abdominal surgeries or multiple revisions of the shunt in the abdomen; (b) allergic reactions to silicone or ethylene oxide [55] and a reaction due to the starch granules from the surgical gloves; for this reason, some neurosurgeons recommend the use of latex-free gloves while inserting a VPS or excising pseudocyst [103]; and (c) in a lesser proportion, liver dysfunction [67].

Most authors agree that infection is the main cause of the formation of abdominal CSF pseudocyst [18, 33, 73]. One paper reviewed eight studies with 128 cases showing that infection rates vary between 17 and 80 %, with an average of 42 % [74]. Some neurosurgeons recommend a routine culture of the abdominal catheter tip. In the series of Salomão et al. [102], cultures of the CSF and the tip were positive in 44.4 and 61 % of the samples, respectively. In their opinion, the latter seems to be more reliable. The most common organisms isolated from the culture are *Staphylococcus*

epidermidis and *Staphylococcus aureus*. According to Erşahin et al. [36], when the abdominal CSF pseudocyst associated with a shunt infection occurs within 1 year after a shunting procedure, the probable organism is *S. epidermidis*. Mobley et al. [74] stated that it is possible to find slow-growing bacteria such as *P. acnes* in culture more than 7 days. Some few isolated cases of infected abdominal CSF pseudocyst with others bacteria have been reported [36, 56, 63, 74, 102]. In contrast, similar to our five cases, Bartolek et al. [11] did not find infection signs in their five patients, nor did Sena et al. [105] and Agha et al. [4].

In our analysis of 295 pediatric cases, 92 patients (33 %) have a positive culture on presentation, 188 cases (67 %) have sterile CSF, and 15 children have infection as missing data. The positive culture rate was 41 % for those 5 years and younger, 39 % for children between 5 and 10 years old, 16 % for patients between 10 and 15 years old, and only 4 % positive culture for those 15 years and older. In contrast, only 6 cases (15 %) among 41 adults were infected. The positive culture rate was 66 % for those 30 years and younger. The other 14 adults were not informed of the CSF culture. This information confirms

Table 1 Clinical characteristics of five patients with abdominal CSF pseudocyst

Patient no.	1	2	3	4	5
Sex/age	F/1 years	F/14 years	F/2.5 years	F/6 years	F/6 years
Hydrocephalus etiology	Congenital	PMTB	MM	Dandy Walker	Congenital
Age at last VPS	3 months	13.5 years	1 month	2.2 years	16 days
Previous shunt revision	Yes	No	No	No	No
Shunt	Malfunction	Malfunction	Malfunction	Function	Function
Symptoms	Abdominal mass and pain, headache, vomiting	Abdominal mass and pain, sonolence	Abdominal pain and distention, headache, vomiting	Abdominal pain and distention, tenderness	Abdominal pain, distention, abdominal mass
Abdominal CT scan	4.5×6.5 cm	9.1×13.8 cm	7×12 cm	4×3 cm	8.1×10.7 cm
CSF culture	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
Fluid pseudocyst protein	1,350 mg/dl	1,250 mg/dl	1,098 mg/dl	501 mg/dl	827 mg/dl
Follow-up	2 years	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
Outcome	Resolution	Resolution	Resolution	Resolution	Resolution

Abbreviations: CSF cerebrospinal fluid, MM myelomeningocele, PMTB postmeningitis tuberculosis, VPS ventriculoperitoneal shunt

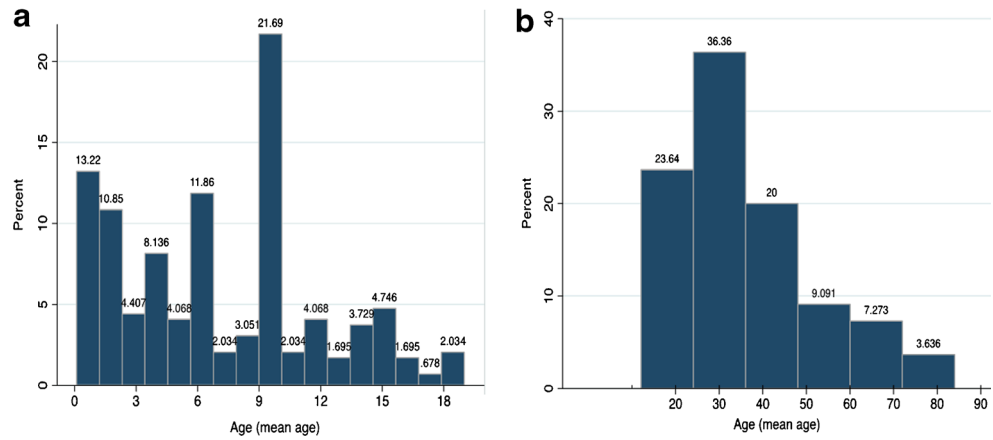
Table 2 Review of the literature on abdominal CSF pseudocysts (1954–2012)

First author/reference	Year	<i>N</i>
Achayra [1]	2001	1
Agarwal [3]	2009	1
Agha [4]	1983	6
Aguirre-Rivero [5]	1998	6
Anderson [8]	2003	1
Aparici-Robles [9]	2008	6
Bartolek [11]	2010	5
Baumgartner [12]	1990	1
Bauni [13]	2007	2
Besson [14]	1995	22
Birbilis [15]	2008	1
Briggs [16]	1984	5
Bryant [17]	1988	5
Burchianti [18]	1988	7
Buyukyavuz [19]	2012	1
Castellucio [20]	2006	1
Chandra [21]	1992	2
Chitkara [22]	2004	1
Chuang [23]	1978	2
Chung [24]	2009	6
Coley [25]	2004	7
Coşkun [27]	1999	1
Davidson [30]	1975	1
De Oliveira [31]	2007	12
Deindl [32]	1986	1
Egelhoff [33]	1986	8
Ekong [34]	1979	3
Engelhard [35]	1992	1
Erşahin [36]	1996	10
Faraj [37]	2011	1
Figueiredo [38]	1981	3
Fischer [39]	1969	3
Fortea-Sanchis [40]	2011	1
Gamal [41]	1988	1
Gaskill [42]	1989	12
Gebarski [43]	1984	1
Ghidirim [44]	2010	1
Ghritlaharey [45]	2006	3
Goldfine [47]	1978	1
Gomutbutra [48]	2004	1
Grosfeld [49]	1974	3
Grunebaum [50]	1988	5
Guice [51]	1978	1
Gutierrez [52]	1976	11
Hahn [53]	1986	26
Harsh [54]	1954	1
Hashimoto [55]	2004	1
Hernández [56]	2004	1
Horikawa [57]	1999	1
Hsieh [58]	2006	1
Jackson [60]	1955	1

Table 2 (continued)

First author/reference	Year	<i>N</i>
Jain [61]	2003	1
Kaplan [62]	2007	1
Kariyattil [63]	2007	15
Kim [64]	1995	1
Koçak [65]	2004	1
Kolić [66]	2010	1
Latchaw [67]	1981	1
Lee [68]	1978	1
Leung [69]	2010	1
Mobley III [74]	2005	36
Nakagaki [75]	1979	1
Nfonsam [76]	2008	4
Norfray [77]	1979	1
Nugent [78]	1986	1
Oh [79]	2001	1
Ohba [80]	2012	1
Palomar [81]	1977	2
Parrish[82]	1973	1
Parry [83]	1975	4
Pathi [84]	2004	1
Peltier [85]	2011	1
Pérez Moreno [86]	2012	1
Pernas [87]	2004	1
Popa [90]	2009	2
Price [91]	1981	2
Raghavendra [93]	1981	3
Rainov [94]	1994	14
Rana [95]	1985	1
Redman [96]	1977	1
Roitberg [98]	1998	27
Rovlias [99]	2001	1
Ruiz-Tovar [100]	2010	2
Rush [101]	1985	4
Salomão [102]	1998	18
Sanal [103]	2007	8
Seçer [104]	2011	1
Sena [105]	2010	1
Sharma [106]	2004	1
Sivalingam [107]	1976	1
Suematsu [108]	1984	2
Takeuchi [109]	2012	1
Verma [110]	2012	1
Wang [111]	2012	1
Wang [112]	1989	1
White [113]	1991	6
Wolbers [114]	1987	1
Yamamoto [115]	1979	1
Yamashita [116]	1990	1
Yuh [117]	2012	1
Dabdoub	2013	5
Total		393

Fig. 3 Histogram of age between **a** children and **b** adults. Distribution of age among children, showing that the vast majority of the sample had children younger than 10 years, 13 % had younger than 1 year, and only 4.4 % had 15–19 years old. Among adults, we observed a right-skewed distribution, showing that most individuals were 20 to 25 years (25.5 %) and 20 % were older than 45 years



that the prevalence of infection is lower in adults than that in children and shows a higher prevalence in children younger than 10 years ($p=0.042$) and in adults younger than 30 years ($p=0.355$). Furthermore, some authors suggest that a smaller pseudocyst tends to be infected and a larger abdominal CSF pseudocyst tends to be sterile [46, 84].

Table 3 Clinical characteristics and etiology of hydrocephalus reported in the literature in children ($n=295$) and adults ($n=55$)

	Children		Adults	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Age ^a	7.2±4.7		36.7±15.1	
Gender ^b				
Male	136	48.2	22	43.1
Female	146	51.8	29	56.9
Etiology				
Congenital HCF	64	21.7	03	5.5
Myelomeningocele	57	19.3	03	5.5
Intraventricular hemorrhage	43	14.6	06	11
Previous infection	23	7.8	09	16.3
Tumor	23	7.8	12	21.8
Aqueductal stenosis	16	5.4	02	3.6
Dandy-Walker cyst	15	5	0	0
Trauma	05	1.7	04	7.2
Chiari malformation	04	1.3	01	1.8
TB meningitis	12	4.1	01	1.8
Others	20	6.8	06	11
Unknown	13	4.4	08	14.5
Symptoms				
Abdominal ^c	289	89.9	46	83.6
Neurological ^d	102	38.6	19	34.6

Abbreviations: HCF hydrocephalus, TB tuberculosis

^a Mean±standard deviation

^b 17 missing

^c 29 missing

^d 31 missing

One of the most suggested predisposing factors of CSF pseudocyst formation is multiple shunt revisions. Hahn et al. [53] found that the average number of previous shunt revisions in patients with abdominal CSF pseudocyst was 11.2, and Rainov et al. [94] described 50 % of the patients with 5 to 10 shunt revisions. This revision rate is significantly higher compared with our cases and other reports [18, 31, 36, 42, 102].

In total, 287 abdominal CSF pseudocyst cases who underwent shunt revision have been reported; 196 (78.4 %) of 250 children and 23 (62.2 %) of 37 adults evaluated were submitted to VPS revision. In children, of the 196 patients who had at least one shunt revision, 68 (35 %) had positive cultures on presentation. On the other hand, of the 54 patients who did not have a revision, only 12 (22 %) had an infection ($p=0.09$). In contrast, of the six adult patients reported with positive CSF culture, two had previous shunt revision (2/19), 2 had not underwent shunt revision (2/12), and the other two were not informed history of VPS revision (2/6) ($p=0.507$). Comparing adults and children, we found an association between shunt revision and positive cultures ($p=0.017$), suggesting that children who had a previous shunt revision had the most positive cultures compared with adults, with an odds ratio of 1.84.

Additionally, the etiology of the hydrocephalus has been thought to predispose the development of abdominal pseudocyst. Gutiérrez and Raimondi [52] observed the high incidence of abdominal CSF pseudocyst in patients with Dandy-Walker cyst (4 of 11). Likewise, myelomeningocele seemed to be an important etiology factor for pseudocyst formation in de Oliveira's [31] series (6 of 12). Central nervous system (CNS) tumors have been associated with this pathology, such as astrocytomas, meningioma, papilloma of plexus choroideus, ependymoma, and primitive neuroectodermal tumors [9, 11, 20, 23, 30, 62, 95, 106, 115, 116].

In international literature, the most common etiology-related hydrocephalus in children was congenital hydrocephalus (21.7 %), followed by myelomeningocele (19.3 %), intraventricular hemorrhage in premature infants (14.6 %), brain

tumor (7.8 %), and meningitis (7.8 %). On adult patients, the main causes of hydrocephalus included tumor (21.8 %), meningitis (16.3 %), intraventricular hemorrhage (11.3 %), trauma (7.2 %), and congenital hydrocephalus (5.5 %) (Table 3). Although 21 and 19 % of children had congenital hydrocephalus and myelomeningocele, respectively, these diagnoses do not represent predisposition to positive CSF cultures ($p=0.421$ for congenital hydrocephalus and $p=0.325$ for myelomeningocele). On the other hand, almost 22 and 16 % of the adults had brain tumor and meningitis, respectively, as a main cause of hydrocephalus. Of the adult cases with negative culture, 34 and 20 % had brain tumor and meningitis, respectively, as opposed to none of the adults with these conditions had infection ($p=0.106$ for brain tumor and $p=0.299$ for meningitis). Hence, the etiology of hydrocephalus has not seemed to be a risk factor in the development of abdominal CSF pseudocyst in either children or adults.

Clinical aspects

Although there are no pathognomonic signs in patients with abdominal CSF pseudocyst, the common presentations in children are headache, vomiting, and decreased level of consciousness [94]. Moreover, this pathology may be presented as an acute abdomen [117]; therefore, this presentation in children with VPS requires a skillful diagnostic workup [92, 97]. In adults, the abdominal signs are more important than the infectious signs or neurological complaints, which usually appear days or weeks after abdominal symptoms [42, 77]. Ohba et al. [80] found abdominal symptoms in most of the adult cases, where approximately 30 % presented with symptoms because of shunt malfunction. In abdominal CSF pseudocyst has been also described hyponatremic seizure, hydronephrosis, inferior vena caval obstruction with bilateral hydronephrosis, ureteropelvic junction obstruction, caliectasis with both ureters deviated laterally, cholelithiasis, suggestive of a full-term pregnancy, hemorrhage as a complication of anticoagulant therapy, markedly elevated liver function test, and a right pleural effusion [19, 35, 47, 48, 57, 67, 69, 88, 89, 111].

In our series, three patients (60 %) had shunt dysfunction. However, in literature revision, the neurological symptoms occurred only in 38.6 % of the children and 34.6 % of the adults. Hence, there was no tendency toward presentation with neurological symptoms in the children compared with the adults ($p=0.569$, chi-square test). On the other hand, abdominal symptoms were more frequent, representing 89 % of the sample, with 89.9 % in children and 83.6 % in adults. Hence, there was no tendency toward presentation, with abdominal symptoms compared in both groups ($p=0.184$, chi-square test). However, to determine the association between the types of symptoms assessed, we identified 35 % of children with both abdominal and neurological symptomatology ($p=0.000$) and 24 % of adults ($p=0.000$), demonstrating that the

association of abdominal and neurological symptoms was obtained for children and adults.

The time interval from the shunt application to the onset of symptoms had a mean of approximately 2 years [18], but frequently within the first 6 months [108]. The shortest interval was 5 days in one patient [24] and 6 days in other patients [52]. The longest interval was 10 years [99, 105] and 15 years [31, 87]. The length of time from the last shunting procedure to the development of abdominal CSF pseudocyst in our series ranged from 6 months to 5.9 years (mean 2.6 years). The fact that abdominal CSF pseudocyst occurs within a short amount of time after a shunt revision implies that an infectious state is probably present, despite the low infection rates published in the literature.

Diagnosis

For radiological diagnosis, ultrasound is the method of choice because it is noninvasive, easy to perform, not expensive, and sufficient for a satisfactory diagnosis for larger, localized, or loculated abdominal CSF collection, and generally, it can be displaced in the tip of the peritoneal catheter [7, 42]. Grunebaum et al. [50] drew attention to the sonographic signs of the noninfected pseudocyst, infected pseudocyst, or abscess. For these authors, the noninfected abdominal CSF pseudocyst is characterized by a well-defined sonolucent mass without septa and increased echogenicity beneath it. The shunt tip will produce an echo a signal of higher amplitude than a septum, and the two parallel sides of the shunt will produce the characteristic “railroad sign”. In an infected abdominal pseudocyst, a mixture of echoes is demonstrated. The presence of septa or even a fluid level may be detected [93].

The CT scan of the abdomen provides a more accurate diagnosis, especially when these abdominal CSF pseudocysts are large and deform the normal architecture of the abdomen [43]. CT scan may be a better first choice in the initial evaluation to exclude other causes such as peritonitis, appendicitis, volvulus, or diverticulitis [8]. The CT scan shows a cyst containing homogeneous water density fluid with a fine and well-defined margin. The distal catheter of the shunt appears as a higher-density structure with the tip within the pseudocyst [91]. Our patients were diagnosed based on CT scan and reflect the trend for using it as the basis for evaluation, especially when there is a suspected mass.

Treatment

On the basis of treatment, there has been no consensus for both handling the VPS as pseudocyst itself because of the treatment changes according to the characteristics of patients, the experience of the surgeon, and the findings during the operation [104]. All patients with abdominal pseudocyst must have CSF from the shunt, the pseudocyst, or both

preoperatively. When the CSF is positive for bacteria on Gram stain or had a suspicious glucose, protein, or white blood cell count, the treatment tends to be an externalization of the shunt and proper antibiotic therapy [74].

In the absence of infection, the most widely accepted opinions are replacement of the distal catheter into the nonperitoneal space, especially if there are signs of peritonitis and peritoneal adhesions or laparotomy for catheter replacement in the opposite quadrant of abdomen pseudocyst. Therefore, removing the peritoneal shunt entirely became preferable [31, 103]. Although an acute infection may not be evident, prophylactic antibiotic therapy is warranted until infection is ruled out [8].

About the treatment of pseudocyst, some authors propose full or partial exeresis by laparotomy or laparoscopy, especially if the large cavity is attached to the abdominal wall [76]. Some surgeons had demonstrated that the simple remotion of the catheter diverted the CSF, making the pseudocyst disappear [42]. Sonographically guided abdominal CSF pseudocyst aspiration is also an effective technique, allowing the exclusion or confirmation of CSF infection and providing the relief of abdominal symptoms [25, 93]. If there is no sign of infection, a single operative shunt revision may be a reasonable and less invasive method of treatment, sparing the patient a surgical procedure and shunt externalization [25].

In summary, the most common definitive procedures in children and adults include seven main categories: (1) direct exploratory laparotomy or laparoscopic procedure with abdominal pseudocyst excision or aspiration and (a) reposition of the distal shunt into the opposite site of peritoneum, (b) replacement of the distal shunt, and/or (c) reposition of the distal catheter into the nonperitoneal space; (2) direct exploratory laparotomy or laparoscopic procedure with abdominal pseudocyst excision or aspiration and VPS externalization or external ventricular drainage (EVD) and (a) new VPS and/or (b) reposition of the distal catheter into the nonperitoneal space; (3) aspiration only; (4) VPS externalization or EVD and new VPS; (5) reposition of the shunt; (6) replacement of the shunt; and (7) removal or reposition of the distal shunt catheter into the nonperitoneal space. Lately, for selected cases, after shunt externalization, de Oliveira et al. [31] had advocated the endoscopic third ventriculostomy in these cases because CSF flow is reestablished and the peritoneal cavity would be preserved for future use.

Regarding the risk of the recurrence of abdominal CSF pseudocyst in the literature, we performed an analysis for each subgroup of children and adults according to the etiology of hydrocephalus, shunt revision, and infection (Tables 4 and 5). The recurrence of abdominal pseudocyst occurred in 19.8 and 24.2 % of children and adults, respectively, with no information in 48 children and 22 adults. Age was not a relevant factor in the recurrence even for children ($p=0.198$) or adults ($p=0.801$), with no statistical difference between those who had

Table 4 Proportion of abdominal pseudocyst recurrence risk related to the etiology of hydrocephalus, shunt revision and infection reported in the literature in children ($n=49$)

	<i>n</i> (%)	OR	IC95 %	<i>p</i>
Etiology				
Congenital HCF	13 (26.5)	1.22	0.7–2.5	0.574
Myelomeningocele	12 (24.5)	1.24	0.6–2.7	0.458
Intraventricular hemorrhage	11 (22.5)	1.75	0.8–3.8	0.153
Previous infection	03 (6.1)	0.65	0.2–2.2	0.505
Tumor	03 (6.1)	0.74	0.2–2.5	0.645
Aqueductal stenosis	02 (4.1)	1.64	0–7.6	0.557
Dandy-Walker cyst	0 (0)	0	0–1.36	0.091
Trauma	0 (0)	0	0–3.89	0.316
Chiari malformation	0 (0)	0	0–7.85	0.479
TB meningitis	0 (0)	0	0–1.36	0.128
Others	03 (6.1)	0.93	0.3–3.2	0.910
Unknown	02 (4.1)	–	–	–
Previous shunt revision	37 (86.1)	2.01	0.8–4.9	0.135
Infection	15 (31.3)	0.95	0.5–1.85	0.871

Abbreviations: OR odds ratio, IC95% 95 % confidence interval, HCF hydrocephalus, TB tuberculosis

the recurrence and those who had not. However, among male children, we identified a higher proportion statistically different ($p=0.011$), representing 65.3 % of the children who had recurrence.

The recurrence of abdominal pseudocyst in children submitted previous shunt revision (86 %) found an odds ratio of two, although without significant association. The most frequent hydrocephalus etiologies found in these children were congenital hydrocephalus (27 %, OR=1.2), myelomeningocele (25 %, OR=1.2), and intraventricular hemorrhage (23 %, OR=1.8); however, they also have not found significant statistical associations. In adults, congenital

Table 5 Proportion of abdominal pseudocyst recurrence risk related to the etiology of hydrocephalus, shunt revision and infection reported in the literature in adults ($n=08$)

	<i>n</i> (%)	OR	IC95 %	<i>p</i>
Etiology				
Congenital HCF	02 (25)	8.0	0.8–	0.072
Intraventricular hemorrhage	01 (12.5)	1.04	0–9.0	0.969
Previous infection	01 (12.5)	0.45	0–3.6	0.489
Tumor	02 (25)	1.33	0.2–7.8	0.763
Others	02 (25)	–	–	–
Previous shunt revision	02 (40)	0.6	0.09–3.8	0.615
Infection	01 (20)	1.19	0–10.9	0.890

Abbreviations: OR odds ratio, IC95% 95 % confidence interval, HCF hydrocephalus

hydrocephalus (25 %, OR=8, $p=0.07$) was suggested to be a relevant risk factor for CSF abdominal pseudocyst recurrence.

With respect to the surgical treatment developed, we described all surgeries reported in the literature for adults and children with the odds ratio of recurrence for each intervention evaluated (Table 6). For children, the odds of recurrence was statistically associated with VPS reposition (odds 9.4 and $p=0.000$). In contrast, the lowest odds of recurrence was identified for repositioning the distal catheter into the nonperitoneal space without exploratory laparotomy procedure after removing the VPS (odds=0.08 and $p=0.001$), and for adults, we have not found any statistical association. Therefore, the reposition of the peritoneal catheter on the abdominal cavity seems to carry more risk of recurrence in children compared with adults, and the reposition of the distal shunt into the nonperitoneal space is not a risk factor for recurrence in children.

By checking the different surgeries performed after or without exploratory laparotomy for CSF pseudocyst excision or aspiration, we found that the number of recurrence in children was higher for treatments without exploratory laparotomy (55 % and $p=0.853$) than for the group with laparotomy technique (39 % and $p=0.255$), but there was no statistical relationship with recurrence. In adults, the situation is different because 75 and 13 % of the number of recurrences were identified for the group of treatment with and without

exploratory laparotomy, respectively. However, we do not identify statistical significance ($p=0.556$ and $p=0.544$).

In children, the abdominal pseudocyst recurrence with the reposition of the distal shunt after exploratory laparotomy treatment was not statistically significant among patients with negative CSF cultures; however, for treatment with the reposition of the distal shunt without exploratory laparotomy, we identified a suggestive probability for recurrence ($p=0.050$).

Conclusions

In this literature survey, we have analyzed a relatively large number of abdominal CSF pseudocysts in children compared with adults. The level of evidence in most of the studies in the literature is low. However, from our comprehensive literature review, we conclude the following:

1. As opposed to the literature reported, this review showed no statistical differences in the clinical picture between children and adults with this entity.
2. The prevalence of infection is lower in adults than that in children and higher in children younger than 10 years.
3. We identified a statistical significance association between shunt revision and positive cultures in children when compared with adults.

Table 6 Surgical treatment of abdominal pseudocyst in children ($n=247$), adults ($n=33$) and risk of recurrence

	Children			Adults		
	<i>n</i> (%)	OR	<i>p</i>	<i>n</i> (%)	OR	<i>p</i>
Surgical treatment						
(^a) and repositioning of the distal shunt	56 (18.9)	1.56	0.239	23 (41.8)	0.92	0.922
(^a) and replacing the distal shunt	23 (7.8)	1.1	0.890	11 (20)	0	0.566
(^a) and repositioning the distal catheter into non-peritoneal space	15 (5.1)	0	0.316	04 (7.3)	0	0.409
(^a) and (^b) and new VP shunt	13 (4.4)	1.77	0.411	07 (12.7)	1.75	0.566
Aspiration only	03 (1.02)	8.4	0.101	01 (1.8)	0.13	0.072
(^b) and new VP shunt	82 (27.8)	0.96	0.928	04 (7.3)	0	0.700
VP shunt repositioned	14 (4.8)	9.46	0.000	03 (5.5)	0	0.566
VP shunt replacement	05 (1.7)	2.77	0.258	02 (3.6)	0	0.409
VP shunt removing and repositioning the distal catheter into non-peritoneal space	43 (14.6)	0.08	0.001	–	–	–
(^a) and (^b) and repositioning the distal catheter into non-peritoneal space	11 (3.7)	0	–	–	–	–
(^b) and repositioning the distal catheter into non-peritoneal space	18 (6.1)	0	–	–	–	–
Others	08 (2.7)	0	–	–	–	–
NI	04 (1.4)	–	–	–	–	–
Pseudocyst recurrence						
Yes	49 (19.8)	–	–	08 (24.2)	–	–
No	198 (80.2)	–	–	25 (75.8)	–	–

Abbreviations: VP ventriculoperitoneal, EVD external ventricular derivation, VAS ventriculo atrial shunt, NI not informed, OR odds ratio

^a Direct exploratory laparotomy or laparoscopic procedure with cyst excision

^b VP shunt externalized and/or external ventricular derivation

4. We did not identify the predisposing causes of hydrocephalus related to the development of abdominal CSF pseudocyst between children and adults. However, congenital hydrocephalus suggests being a risk factor for recurrence in adults.
5. Age was not a relevant factor in the abdominal CSF pseudocyst recurrence, although there is a higher proportion of recurrence in male children.
6. In children, pseudocyst recurrence was statistically associated in treatment with repositioned distal catheter. In adults, we did not find any statistical association.
7. In children, the number of recurrence was higher for treatments without exploratory laparotomy (55 %) than for the group with laparotomy technique (39 %). In adults, it was the opposite situation, that is, 75 % after exploratory laparotomy and 13 % without laparotomy.
8. Future research in these patients not only will allow a better understanding of the pathogenesis of abdominal CSF pseudocyst but also will determine which procedure should be the best neurosurgical treatment in children and adults with these conditions.

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