Letter to the Editor

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Polycystic Kidney Disease Associated with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome

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Dear Sir,

Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) is commonly associated with other systemic manifestations such as cardiac valvular lesions, intracranial aneurysms, hepatic cysts and diverticula [1]. Rarely, ovarian cysts have been associated with ADPKD [1]. Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) has, however, not been documented in patients with ADPKD. We report a patient with PCOS and ADPKD.

A 30-year-old female presented to the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department with hirsutism of 2 years’ duration and amenorrhea and weight gain of 6 months’ duration. On examination, she was found to be overweight (weight 65 kg, height 160 cm) with gross hirsutism. There was male distribution of body hair. The breasts and genitalia were normal. There were no masses palpable on abdominal examination. Pelvic examination revealed normal findings. Blood pressure was 140/90 mm Hg. Cardiovascular examination revealed no murmurs or abnormal heart sounds. There was no neurologic deficit.

Investigations revealed elevated serum testosterone (5.5 nmol/l; normal range: 0.9-2.8), raised luteinizing hormone/follicle-stimulating hormone ratio 10.7:5.2 (normal range: < 2) and low serum estradiol (216 pmol/l; normal range: 588-1,397 pmol/l). Serum prolactin (190 mU/l; normal range: 117-68), dehydroepiandrosterone (3.5 µmol/l; normal range: 1.1-10.7) and dexamethasone suppression test were normal. Vaginal probe ultrasound demonstrated the classic ‘necklace’-like arrangement of cysts in both ovaries (fig. 1). The adnexa were normal. Ultrasonography and computed tomography of the abdomen revealed multiple cysts of the patient was treated with oral cypro-terone acetate and premarin for her PCOS and was referred to the nephrology unit for evaluation and management of her ADPKD. By this time, the patient developed hypertension, the blood pressure being 190/110 mm Hg, and symptoms of renal colic. Investigat-
Fig. 1. Polycystic ovary. Transvaginal sonography shows multiple peripheral cysts in a normal-sized left ovary.

Fig. 2. Adult polycystic kidney disease. Enhanced CT scan shows multiple bilateral renal cysts of varying sizes.

Extrarenal involvement of ADPKD includes the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, neurological, musculoskeletal and the genitalourinary system. Cardiovascular abnormalities include mitral valve prolapse, aortic valve incompetence, tricuspid valve prolapse [2], bicuspid aortic valve, aortic root dilatation, aortic aneurysms, coarctation of the aorta, dissecting thoracic aortic aneurysms [3] and left ventricular hypertrophy [2]. Gastro-intestinal abnormalities include hepatic cysts [4] and colonic diverticula [5]. Neurological abnormalities include intracranial aneurysms [6]. Musculoskeletal abnormalities include inguinal and umbilical hernias [7] and other genitourinary abnormalities include ovarian cysts [1]. The association of ovarian cysts and ADPKD has not been well studied and PCOS has not so far been reported to occur with ADPKD. Our patient may well be the first case to have PCOS in association with ADPKD.

In view of the involvement of the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and genitourinary systems, it has been suggested that ADPKD should be viewed as a systemic disease [1]. Our findings of genitourinary as well as endocrine abnormalities in a patient with ADPKD lend support to the above view.

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