

A rare case of ovarian dysgerminoma in a 6-year-old child in Lagos: A case report

Sir,

I read with interest the case report by Okunade *et al.* on the ovarian dysgerminoma (OD) in a 6-year-old Nigerian child.^[1] It is obvious that individuals infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immune deficiency syndrome are generally at increased risk to various neoplasms compared to the immunocompetent individuals.^[2] Various factors have been suggested to explain that increased risk, notably co-infection with oncogenic viruses, immunosuppression, and life prolongation secondary to the use of antiretroviral therapy.^[3] Among neoplasms, OD has been reported in HIV-positive patients.^[4] To my knowledge, HIV infection is a worrisome health threat in the sub-Saharan countries, including Nigeria. Although no recent data are yet present on the pediatric HIV seroprevalence in Nigeria, the available data pointed out that 3% of the pregnant who were HIV negative at booking visit tested positive (seroconverted) to HIV.^[5] Regrettably, the HIV status of the mother of the studied child was not defined. I presume that some sort of vertical HIV transmission needed to be considered in the studied patient. Hence, the arrangement for the diagnostic panel of CD4 count and viral overload measurements was envisaged in the studied child. If that diagnostic set was done and it revealed underlying HIV infection, the case in question could be truly regarded as a novel case report. This is because HIV-associated pediatric OD has never been reported in the pediatric literature so far.

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form the patient(s) has/have given his/her/their consent for his/her/their images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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