

CASE REPORT: TESTICULAR MICROLITHIASIS



Fig. 1

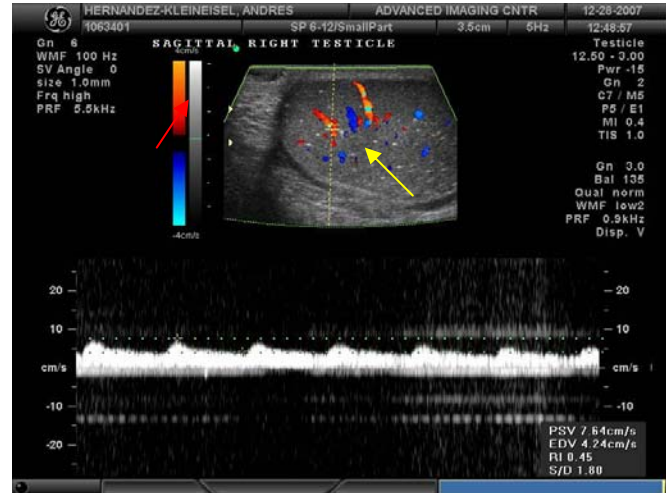


Fig. 2

CLINICAL PRESENTATION: This is a 14-year-old male who presented with a possible testicular mass. An ultrasound with Doppler was performed at AIC as requested by Pediatrician **Dr. Satey, MD**.

IMAGING FINDINGS: **Fig. 1** is a sagittal image of the testicle showing numerous punctate echogenic foci (calcifications). Some refer to this as a “starry sky” appearance. No significant shadowing is noted, however, probably due to small size of the calcifications. **Fig. 2** is a Doppler scan showing normal flow to the testicles and mild hydrocele but no torsion.

DIAGNOSIS: These findings are compatible with Testicular Microlithiasis (TM). It is usually a benign condition. There have been reports of concomitant malignancies such as germ cell tumors in patients with TM. This patient had no other mass.

DISCUSSION: There is an association with testicular intratubular germ cell neoplasia (IGCN), germ cell version of carcinoma-in-situ (CIS). TM is relatively rare with prevalence of approximately 0.6% of testicular ultrasonograms. TM has been associated in both benign and malignant conditions such as Klinefelter syndrome, male pseudohermaphroditism, Down syndrome, infertility, cryptorchism, hypogonadism, fragile X syndrome, pseudoxanthoma elasticum, and pulmonary microlithiasis.¹ Many of these benign conditions are risk factors for testicular malignancies. As per Reference #1 below, there is up to 20-fold increased risk of testicular cancer, requiring sonographic surveillance for tumor.

Ray Hashemi, MD
Ray H. Hashemi, M.D., Ph.D.
Director

1. REFERENCE: Adedayo A. Onitilo, MD, MSCR, FACP. Testicular Microlithiasis: Another Starry Sky Appearance. Clin Med Res. 2007 October; 5(3): 163–164.