

# Prolonged Survival of a Patient With Pelvic Recurrence of Ovarian Malignant Mixed Mullerian Tumor After Chemoradiotherapy

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**Introduction:** Malignant Mixed Mullerian Tumor (MMMT) is a very rare tumor, accounting for less than 1% of all ovarian cancers.

**Case Presentation:** We present a 64-year-old woman with stage III MMMT of ovary that was treated with platinum-based chemotherapy after optimal cytoreductive surgery. After 25 months of being disease free, she had a pelvic recurrence and a good response to chemoradiotherapy.

**Conclusions:** Optimal cytoreductive surgery and chemotherapy may be the best treatment in MMMT but more discussion and experiences are needed regarding the effectiveness of radiotherapy.

**Keywords:** Mixed Tumor, Mullerian; Cytoreductive Surgery; Chemoradiotherapy; Chemotherapy; Ovary

## 1. Introduction

Malignant Mixed Mullerian Tumor (MMMT) of ovary is a rare tumor, accounting for less than 1% of all ovarian cancers, that most commonly occurs in postmenopausal women with low parity (1). It is a biphasic tumor, composed of both epithelial and stromal components (2). Predominant stromal tumor has been associated with worse outcome and poor response to treatment. Known risk factors for MMMT include obesity, nulliparity, exogenous estrogen, and long-term tamoxifen use (3). Stage of disease is the most important survival-determining factor in patients with MMMT (4). Complete surgical resection with staging is the main treatment of this tumor. Although there is no standard regimen for chemotherapy, it is advised in patients with stage II or higher (1). The role of adjuvant radiotherapy is controversial (5). In this report, we introduce a case of prolonged survival of a patient with pelvic recurrence of ovarian MMMT after chemoradiotherapy.

## 2. Case Presentation

In January 2007, we admitted a 64-year-old woman with acute abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting in Ghaem Hospital, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Iran. She had low appetite and inability in passing stool and gas in the recent week. On physical examination, she had a distended abdomen and on abdominal radiography,

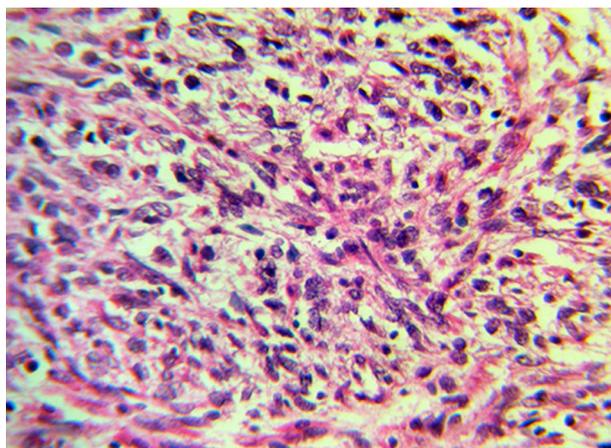
there were multiple air-fluid levels, suspected of bowel obstruction. At laparotomy with a large midline incision, there was adhesion of omentum and bowels on a large heterogeneous pelvic mass. After releasing the adhesions, right ovarian tumor was revealed. Cytoreductive surgery by transabdominal hysterectomy and bilateral salpingoophorectomy (TAH + BSO) and complete surgical staging was done. Histopathologic examination of Hematoxylin-eosin stained tissue samples revealed MMMT in right ovary (Figures 1 and 2) with metastasis to the left adnexa and omentum.

According to the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) staging system (5), the patient was in stage IIIA. The serum CA-125 was elevated (386 IU/mL) but the level of CEA and CA19-9 were within normal limits (3.5 IU/mL and 9 IU/mL, respectively).

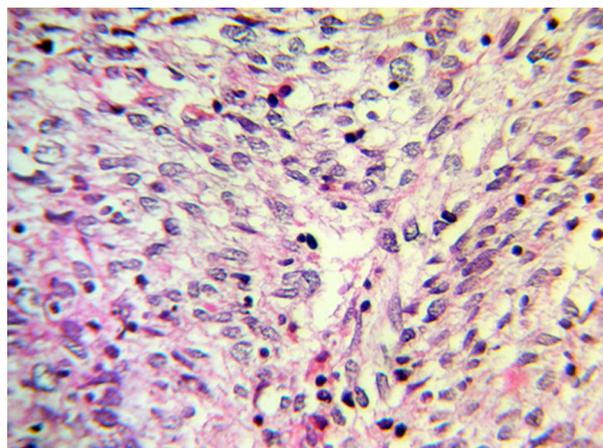
The patient received six courses of chemotherapy consisting of carboplatin 6AUC and paclitaxel (270 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) regimen every three weeks. After six courses of chemotherapy, abdominopelvic computed tomography (CT) findings were normal and there was no evidence of residual tumor in the pelvic cavity. CA-125 reverted to normal levels after surgery and six courses of chemotherapy. The patient was followed up every three months by pelvic examination, abdominal and pelvic sonography, and CA-125

tumor marker. After 31-month disease-free survival, a nodule of about 1.5-cm diameter was palpated in presacral region on rectal and vaginal examination. In July 2010, a round, hypoechoic solid mass of 16 × 18 mm at the posterior right part of the rectum was found in transvaginal ultrasonography. Magnetic resonance imaging confirmed the existence of a mass of 17-mm diameter, compatible with a lymph node. CA125 level was increased (65 IU/mL). We recommended transrectal ultrasound-guided biopsy but the patient did not accept. In May 2011, a CT scan showed persist lymphadenopathy of 21 × 11 mm in the

presacral region. In June 2011 and after 42 months from the primary surgery, a CT-guided biopsy of the presacral mass was performed and histopathologic examination revealed a metastatic carcinoma. The patient underwent chemotherapy with primary regimen again (carboplatin 6 AUC and 270-mg/m<sup>2</sup> paclitaxel) every three weeks and 50.4 Gy radiotherapy in 28 fractions to a standard pelvic box field with photon of 15 mV. After 26 months follow-up, she became progression free with normal abdominopelvic CT findings and normal levels of tumor marker (CA-125) (Table 1).



**Figure 1.** Histopathologic Examination of the Mass (Hematoxylin and Eosin Staining)



**Figure 2.** Histopathologic Examination of the Mass (Hematoxylin and Eosin Staining)

**Table 1.** History of Disease Progression and Treatments

Date	History
June 2007	Diagnosis of the disease (surgery + chemotherapy)
June 2008	Free of disease
June 2010	A mass of 16 × 18 mm (tumor recurrence) was diagnosed
May 2011	Persist lymphadenopathy of 21 × 11 mm, CT-guided biopsy, metastatic carcinoma, 50.4 Gy radiotherapy
26 Months Later	Free of disease

### 3. Discussion

MMMT is a rare and very aggressive cancer of female genital tract, seen mostly in the uterus and very rarely on the ovaries (ovarian carcinosarcoma, OCS) (6). On histopathologic examination, these tumors are characterized by a benign or atypical epithelial component and an invariably, low-grade, malignant stromal component (7). The median age at diagnosis of OCS is more than that of epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC) (8). Risk factors for MMT include obesity, nulliparity, exogenous estrogen, and long-term tamoxifen use (3). OCS occurs in older women and more frequently in patients with disseminated disease. The survival for both early-stage and late-stage carcinosarcoma is shorter than serous tumors (9).

We have presented a 64-year-old woman with none of the known risk factors who was diagnosed with stage III ovarian MMT. We did optimal cytoreductive surgery and postoperation platinum-based chemotherapy. She was followed by ultrasonography, CA125, and physical examination. The pelvic recurrence was diagnosed 42 months later and was successfully treated by chemotherapy and radiotherapy. At the time of writing the report, she was tumor free for 24 months, which was a predominantly good survival for a metastatic case of MMT.

In the most recent reports, optimal cytoreductive surgery has been associated with improved outcome (8). Platinum-based chemotherapy is recommended follow-

ing primary surgical debulking (10, 11). However, there is controversial about the effectiveness of adjuvant radiotherapy (12). Our patient was treated with the platinum-based chemotherapy as well. In a review article that was published in 2011, it was believed that the benefits of radiation therapy in the treatment of OCS lacks enough data and is mostly based on reports; in addition, the role of this treatment modality remains unknown and only useful in single, isolated pelvic recurrence (13). Callister et al. reported the results of 300 patients with MMMT treated with different modalities. The most common site of distant recurrence was the peritoneal cavity and they reported that adjuvant pelvic radiotherapy after surgery would decrease the risk of pelvic recurrence and might delay the appearance of distant metastasis (14). Mano et al. on 2007 reported that radiotherapy may be appropriate for patients with chemotherapy refractory, recurrent, or persisted disease restricted to the pelvic (15). In our patient, the pelvic recurrence was successfully treated by pelvic radiotherapy and she remained tumor free for 26 months.

There is also controversy regarding the role and prognostic significance of tumor markers (CEA, CA125, CA14-4, CA15-3) (16). In a retrospective study, it was reported that tumor markers had no significant role (13). There are still different results in the literatures that consider CA125 as a useful marker for following therapy in ovarian MMMT (17). In our patient, CA125 was useful in follow-up and had significant rise after recurrence and decreased after successful treatment.

Carcinosarcoma contain both carcinomatous malignant epithelial and sarcomatous mesenchymal elements. Some studies have reported that the presence of heterologous sarcomatous elements is associated with a poor prognosis (18, 19). In our patient with relatively long survival tumor, the pathology report was high-grade MMM with homologous predominance of spindle cells sarcomatous component (fibrosarcoma) (Figure 2); the carcinomatous component was glandular (adenocarcinoma).

Ovarian MMMT is very rare and there is significant controversy over the treatment modalities, especially regarding the role of radiotherapy and the best time for its prescription. We have reported a patient with stage III OCS who was treated with complete surgery and platinum-based chemotherapy and then with chemoradiotherapy after recurrence. Fortunately, she had relatively good survival.

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## Authors' Contributions

1) Study concept and design: Sima Kadkhodayan. 2) Acquisition of data: Fatemeh Homaei Shandiz and Noorieh Sharifi Sistani. 3) Analysis and interpretation of data:

Sima Kadkhodayan. 4) Drafting of the manuscript: Zohre Yousefi. 5) Statistical analysis: Malihe Hsanzade Mofrad and Mahboobe Sadeghei. 6) Administrative, technical, and material support: Majid Nabizadeh Marvast. 7) Study supervision: Sima Kadkhodayan.

## Financial Disclosure

We had no financial interests related to the material in the manuscript.

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