Case of the Month:

44-year-old female with bilateral ovarian masses

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Patient Presentation

**HPI:** A 44-year-old female presented to the emergency department with acute-onset right-sided flank pain radiating into the pelvis. A non-contrast CT showed a pinpoint calculus near the UVJ in addition to a large complex unilateral vs bilateral cystic pelvic mass extending into the abdomen. This cystic structure was again identified by pelvic ultrasound.

**PMH:** Nephrolithiasis

**PSH:** Repair of pelvic and arm fractures

**Social History:** Current PPD smoker

**Physical Exam:** Abdomen soft, flat, and non-tender. On bimanual exam, there is a palpable large ovarian mass to the level of the umbilicus.

**Pertinent Labs:** CA-125- 243
What Imaging Should We Order?
## ACR Appropriateness Criteria

**Variant 7:** Adnexal mass, highly suspicious for malignancy, no acute symptoms. Premenopausal and postmenopausal. Initial follow-up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>Relative Radiation Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast</td>
<td>Usually Appropriate</td>
<td>🍎🍎🍎🍎</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRI pelvis without and with IV contrast</td>
<td>Usually Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>US pelvis transabdominal</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate</td>
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<td>US pelvis transvaginal</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT pelvis with IV contrast</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate (Disagreement)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRI pelvis without IV contrast</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>US duplex Doppler pelvis</td>
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Scout Abdominal X-ray (unlabeled)
Scoint Abdominal X-ray (labeled)

Intestines displaced around pelvic mass/masses

Scant bowel gas due to mass effect
CT Abdomen with IV Contrast (unlabeled)
CT Abdomen with IV Contrast (unlabeled)
CT Abdomen with IV Contrast (labeled)

- Septations/nodularity in lower pole of mass
- Coronal
- Sagittal
- Cystic composition of pelvic mass/masses
- Nodular enhancement
- Border between right and left pelvic masses vs. large septation within unilateral mass

[Diagram of CT Abdomen with IV Contrast]
CT Abdomen with IV Contrast (labeled)

- Cystic composition of mass/masses
- Border between right and left pelvic masses vs. large septation within unilateral mass
1. Bilateral/unilateral ovarian cystadenoma
2. Bilateral/unilateral cystadenocarcinoma
3. Bilateral/unilateral borderline ovarian neoplasm
4. Pelvic lymphoceles
5. Cystic metastases
Procedure: Exploratory laparotomy, total abdominal hysterectomy, bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy with resection of adnexal masses, and infra-colic omentectomy.

Intra-Operative Findings: Two large adnexal masses measuring approximately 10 cm on the left and 15 cm on the right. The left adnexal mass was mobile. The right adnexal mass was somewhat adhered to the posterior pelvic peritoneum. The liver, diaphragm, gallbladder, omentum, fallopian tubes, and bowel were all normal in appearance. There was no evidence of ascites or peritoneal disease. The uterus was normal in size with a posterior fibroid.

Estimated Blood Loss: 250 mL
Gross Pathology

Right ovary and mass

Left ovary and mass
Gross Pathology

Cut surface of left mass after drainage of cystic fluid with area of nodularity

Cut surface of right mass after drainage of cystic fluid with some areas of septation/nodularity
• H&E stain demonstrating numerous papillary structures branching into smaller papillae with no invasion into surrounding stroma (100x amplification)

• The epithelium lining the papillae is proliferative but relatively uniform with minimal nuclear atypia (200x amplification)
Final Dx:

Bilateral Borderline Serous Ovarian Tumors
Case Discussion: Borderline Serous Ovarian Tumors

• **Epidemiology:** Borderline ovarian tumors tend to occur in younger females (avg age= 45 years) when compared to ovarian epithelial cancer (avg age= 55 years). The majority of borderline tumors are of serous (53.3%) histology. Of all serous tumors, borderline tumors make up 10-15% with up to 1/3 of cases being bilateral.

• **Presentation:** Patients may present with pelvic or abdominal pain/pressure in addition to dyspareunia. Some cases are also discovered incidentally in asymptomatic patients.
Case Discussion: Borderline Serous Ovarian Tumors

- **Pathology**: Epithelial ovarian tumors are derived from the ovarian or tubal surface epithelium. Borderline serous epithelial tumors are of low malignant potential and are classified histologically by exuberant cellular proliferation with no invasive behavior. When compared to benign serous tumors, they have more excessive and finer papillary projections. Borderline tumors can occasionally display aggressive behavior with peritoneal or nodal metastases.
Case Discussion: Borderline Serous Ovarian Tumors

- **Treatment:** Management of borderline ovarian tumors is surgical. Extent of surgical resection depends on the patients desires for future fertility, presence of bilateral ovarian involvement, and degree of disease spread. Definitive treatment is total abdominal hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy. Frozen sections during surgery are important to guide further operative management. Lymph node dissection is typically omitted unless there is concern for malignancy on frozen section.

- **Imaging:** The best initial imaging for all ovarian masses is endovaginal ultrasound. Borderline serous tumors are usually seen as bilateral adnexal masses with papillary projections sometimes demonstrating intratumoral blood flow.
References: