

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

EVALUATION OF PELVIC MASSES BY TAS VS. TVS AND ITS OPERATIVE CORRELATION

KEY WORDS: TAS -

Transabdominal Sonography, TVS –Transvaginal Sonography, pelvic mass

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Introduction: Sonography is the diagnostic modality of choice for initial evaluation of most patients with a pelvic mass. The use of transvaginal sonography can add specificity in certain areas to the conventional transabdominal sonographic evaluation.

Aiims & objectives: To determine the accuracy of transabdominal sonography and transvaginal sonography in the diagnosis of different pelvic masses and their correlation with intraoperative findings and histopathological findings.

Materials and methods: 150 cases with pelvic masses were taken excluding the obstetric and nongynecologic ones during the period, Oct2012 to Sep 2014 at O&G Department of VSS Medical College Burla and their final intraoperative diagnosis alongwith histopathological confirmation were correlated with both abdominal and vaginal sonography findings.

Results: The diagnostic accuracy of pelvic masses by TVS was 97% as compared to TAS which was 90%. TVS is more sensitive, specific and accurate in detection of pelvic masses in comparison to TAS. Both were equivocal in (34%) of cases, TVS was superior in (62%) of cases and TAS was superior in 4% of cases.

Conlusion: Transvaginal sonography is superior to transabdominal sonography in most cases of pelvic pathologies. However TAS should still be the initial sonographic technique for routine evaluation of the female pelvis followed by TVS if indicated.

INTRODUCTION

Pelvic masses are very common findings in day to day gynecological practice and its accurate diagnosis remains a dilemma in clinical practice. X-ray was the first imaging technique developed. Subsequently, ultrasonography was followed and provided a simple, rapid, inexpensive and reliable

method of imaging of pelvic organs and became the method of choice in diagnosing pelvic masses.

Introduction of transvaginal sonography by Kratochwill in 1969 was like a magic torch & its utilization has made it a more dependable investigation modality. Transvaginal sonography has the advantage of additional information about the internal architecture and anatomy of masses. By ultrasound scoring system of adnexal masses, it is possible to detect and differentiate benign and malignant lesion.

Newer noninvasive advanced imaging technologies include CT scan and MRI, which are quite costly and their limited availability decrease their use in routine investigation for diagnosis of pelvic masses leaving ultrasonography the preferred initial method of investigation modality of pelvic masses.

In addition to transabdominal ultrasonography, vaginal sonography has recently emerged as a valuable method of examining the pelvis. It is often adjunctive to transabdominal sonography. Transvaginal imaging utilizes a higher frequency imaging, which gives better resolution of the ovaries, uterus and endometrium (the fallopian tubes are generally not seen unless distended), but is limited to depth of image penetration, whereas larger lesions reaching into the abdomen are better seen transabdominally. The procedure is by definition invasive when performed transvaginally. Several studies have been made to note the diagnostic value of ultrasonography i.e. both TAS & TVS in diagnosis of pelvic masses.

The present study is aimed to evaluate the role of TAS as well as TVS in evaluation of pelvic masses and its intraoperative & histopathological correlation.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the study was to determine the accuracy of transabdominal sonography and transvaginal sonography in the diagnosis of different pelvic masses.

Correlation of clinical, transabdominal, transvaginal sonography with intraoperative findings as well as histopathological findings.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The study "Evaluation of pelvis masses by TAS vs TVS and its operative correlation" was conducted in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, V.S.S.Medical College, Burla, during the period, Oct2012 to Sep 2014. Out of 239 patients, 150 cases were included in the study, as the rest of the patients were either lost to follow up or were not willing for the further procedure which could confirm the diagnosis

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- All the patients of different age groups with relevant signs/symptoms of pelvic masses
- Asymptomatic patients where pelvic masses detected at routine pelvic examinations or at the time of USG.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- 1. Obstetric patients with relevant complaints.
- Patients with pelvic mass suggestive of non gynaecological origin.

METHOD

After taking a detailed history and complete physical examination, including bimanual pelvic examination, per speculum examination and rectal examinations, a provisional diagnosis of different pelvic masses was made. After preliminary investigations, the patients were subjected to ultrasound examination i.e. both transabdominal sonography(TAS) and transvaginal sonography(TVS). The equipment used for ultrasonic diagnostic study is the "real time B mode scanner with M mode facility" with sector type of transducers. The frequency of TAS transducer is 3.5 Mhz and that of TVS is 7.5 Mhz.

SCANNING TECHNIQUE & PROCEDURE:

After taking history & clinical examination done and scanning was done as follows:

The ultrasound instrument used for this study is a real time B mode scanner with linear and sector type of transducer. The frequency of TAS transducer used is 3.5 Mhz which is present in V.S.S.M.C.H The examination was begun with a longitudinal scan in the midline

in order to identify major landmarks ad to adjust to various controls for gain image size and the location on the monitor. Next transverse scans were obtained starting at the pubic symphyis moving cephald at 1cm intervals to view successively the vagina, cervix body and fundus of the uterus. This was followed by scans with the transducer angled to the right and then left to visualize each adnexae optimally. The scans were labeled as to right left, transverse, longitudinal, oblique or angled. While performing scanning the length, width and echogenicity of uterus were recorded. If follicles were seen in the ovaries their number the size recorded. If any mass in the pelvis was seen, its echogenicity, size, location, origin, relation to uterus were recorded. Solid or cystic ,free fluid in the douglas pouch etc. were noted. Liver was seen for secondaries in the parenchyma, size and patency of portal vein was seen, size and texture of spleen was observed, presence of ascites was noted.

After TAS was done, patient was asked to empty the bladder and then patient was put in lithotomy position for TVS. The transducer used was 7.5 MHz. The uterus was used as land mark for depiction of other adnexal structure.

OBSERVATION:

Out of total 150 cases , majority were multiparous and belong to 31-40yrs age group(32%) followed by the age group 41-50 yrs(28%).

Presenting symptom in pelvic masses in our series

Symptoms	Number of cases
Pain abdomen	96(64%)
Menstrual Irregularities	48(32%)
Lump abdomen	39(26%)
Infertility	18(12%)
Pressure symptoms	15(10%)
White discharge	20(13%)
Loss of appetite	08(5%)
Virilisation	01(1%)
Others	03(2%)

Pain abdomen was the predominant presenting symptom (64%) followed by menstrual irregularities (32%) and lump abdomen (26%). Loss of weight was complained by 5 cases and most of them were malignant pelvic masses.

Most common pelvic mass diagnosed clinically and ultrasolonogically was fibromyoma of uterus (34%) followed by ovarian tumor (31.4%). Maximum of the fibroids were intramural (41.2%). Most of the fibromyoma were multiple in numbers (85.7%).

Pathological findings of pelvic masses

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Disease	Number	Percentage				
Myoma	51	34				
Ovarian Tumor	47	31.4				
Ectopic Pregnancy	12	8				
Adenomyosis	17	11.4				
Tuboovarian mass	07	4.6				
PCOD	02	02				
Pyometra	03	02				
Haematometra	01	01				
Fibrosarcoma	01	0.6				
Endocervical Carcinoma	02	1.4				
Endometrial Carcinoma	03	02				
OHSS	01	0.6				
Didelphus Uterus	01	0.6				
Endometriosis Ovary	02	1.4				

Myoma as per size, site and number

Fibromyoma	Clinical diagnosis	TAS	TVS	Laparotomy
Size 2-4 cm	15	19	22	23
4-8 cm	18	15	19	20
> 8 cm	12	12	00	08

Site Anterior	28	21	23	26
Posterior	20	09	12	15
Fundal	00	15	11	05
Cervical	02	02	03	03
Broad ligament	00	00	02	02
Number Multiple	30	30	30	30
Single	30	22	21	21

Most of the myoma were of 2-4 cm size and size more than 8 cm were not visualised by TVS. Maximum of the myoma were anterior and most of them were multiple.

Distribution of different types of tubo-ovarian masses

Types of TO mass	Clinical diagnosis	TAS	TVS	Intra operative diagnosis	HP Study
Hydrosalpinx	00	00	00	01	01
Pyo Salpinx	00	01	01	01	01
Tubo ovarian complex	00	03	03	03	03
Tubo ovarian abscess	01	01	01	02	02

This table highlights the clinical, ultrasonological, operative, and histopathological correlation of different tubo-ovarian masses. Clinically it was not possible to diagnose categorically the TO mass as well as by TAS. TVS was able to diagnose all variety accurately.

Adenomyosis

Clinical diagnosis	TAS	TVS	Intra operative diagnosis	Histopathologic al diagnosis
11	13	15	17	17
64.7%		88. 2%	100%	100%

Clinical examination had an accuracy of 64.7%, TAS 76.4% & TVS 88.2% in detecting cases of Adenomyosis.

Clinical accuracy in endometrial carcinoma was 33% where as TVS detects endometrial carcinoma in 66% of cases unlike TAS which detects only half of the cases.. there were 2 cases of endocervical carcinoma which were clinically not detected where as TAS detected only 1 case but TVS was able to diagnose all the cases. There was one case of chocolate cyst of ovary which was diagnosed as ovarian tumor clinically. But both type of sonography diagnosed it properly.

Types of ovarian tumor.

Туре	Number	TAS	TVS	Percentage
Serous cystadenoma	16	16	17	34.1
Serous cystadeno carcinoma	05	09	06	10.6
Mucinous cystadenoma	15	17	15	31.9
Mucinous cystadeno carcinoma	03	03	03	6.4
Granulosa cell tumor	01	00	01	2.1
Dermoid	03	07	07	14.8
Fibrothecoma	00	00	01	2.1

The above table shows the histological diagnosis of ovarian tumor. The commonest tumor on histology was serous cyst adenoma (34.1%) followed by mucinous cyst adenoma (31.9%). Ovarian malignancies were serous cystadenocarcinoma (10.6%) and mucinous cystadenocarcinoma (6.4%).

Age distribution of Benign and Malignant ovarian tumors

Age	Benign	Malignant
<20	5(10.6)	02(4.3%)
20-50	28(58.6%)	00
>50	6(13.7%)	06(12.8%)
Total = 47 (100%)	39 (82.9%)	8 (17.1%)

Most of the benign tumors (58.6%) occurs in reproductive age

group i.e. 20-50 years of age. Almost all the malignant tumors occur after 40 years of age.

Detection of different parameters of ovarian tumors

Ovarian tumor	Clinical diagnosis	TAS	TVS	Laparot omy	H.P study		
Size 3-5cm	14	04	10	10	0		
5-8cm	33	35	30	30	0		
>8cm	04	05	00	07	0		
	Nature						
Benign	42	35	39	39	39		
Malignant	10	14	10	80	80		
	Consistency						
Cystic	30	30	30	30	-		
Solid	17	13	12	12	-		
Varigated	00	02	05	05	-		

FINAL CORRELATION OF DIFFERENT DISEASES

Disease	Clinical	TAS	TVS	Intraoperat ive	HP study
Fibromyoma	52	54	54	51	51
Ovarian Tumor	43	51	49	47	47
Ectopic Pregnancy	12	10	111	12	12
Adenomyosis	11	17	17	17	17
Tuboovarian mass	07	06	06	07	07
PCOD	01	02	02	02	02
Pyometra	01	03	03	03	-
Haematometra	00	00	01	01	-
Fibrosarcoma	00	00	00	01	01
Endocervical Carcinoma	00	01	02	02	02
Endometrial Carcinoma	01	01	02	03	03
OHSS	01	01	01	01	0
Didelphus Uterus	00	00	01	01	0
Endometriosis Ovary	00	00	01	02	02

This table shows the final correlation of clinical, ultrasonological, intraoperative & histopathological findings. Clinically 47 no. of fibromyoma were detected correctly. But there was over diagnosis in 4 cases. 3 cases adenomyosis and one case of fibrosarcoma were diagnosed as fibroid. TAS & TVS detected 2 cases of adenomyosis correctly but unable to diagnose one case of fibrosarcoma. Clinically 43 ovarian tumours were detected, there was misdiagnosis in 4 cases as tubo ovarian mass and overdiagnosis in 2 cases of tubo ovarian mass and one case of endometriosis ovary. TAS &TVS were able to diagnosed all cases correctly. One case of didelphus uterus was diagnosed as ectopic pregnancy clinically but TVS diagnosed it correctly unlike TAS.

DISCUSSION: We found maximum number of patients in the age group of 21-50 years (72%) which is similar to the findings by **Sood and others,1994**(76%) who also reported pain abdomen as the most frequent chief complaint (50 cases). In our study, pain was the most frequent presenting symptom complained by 64% of patients having pelvic masses. **O Dowd et al (1990)** studied 546 cases and as per his study menstrual irregularities were present in 30.5% of patients and infertility in 9.3% of cases. In our series, menstrual irregularities were seen in 32% and infertility in 12% of cases.

In our series there was over diagnosis of fibroid in 6 cases clinically. The sensitivity and specificity by TAS was 90.1% and 91.9% respectively. But the sensitivity and specificity of fibroid detection by TVS were 94.1% and 93.9% respectively. These values are comparable with the findings of **Coutradis et al (1990)** who scanned 224 leiomyoma and came up with sensitivity and specificity of 94.5% and 95.3% respectively.

In retrospective studies, the incidence of adenomyosis is 29% (Molitom J.J. 1958), but in a study by Owolabi et al (1977) the prosspective diagnosis was only 10%. In our study, 11 out of 17 cases i.e. 64.7% were diagnosed by clinical examination. 13 cases

(76.4%) were diagnosed by TAS but 15 cases were diagnosed by TVS (88.2%). Here TVS is definitely superior to TAS in diagnosis of adenomyosis which is also suggested by Balbie GC et al(2000), Bazot et al (2002), Dueholm et al (2006), Meredith et al(2009) and Hanafi et al (2013)...

In our series the difficulty posed by TAS was cleared by TVS. By TVS it was possible to differentiate the complex tuboovarian masses into one case of hydrosalphinx, 1 case of pyosalphinx, and 3 cases into tuboovarian complex. 2 cases were detected as tuboovarian abscess.

In our series one case of endometrial carcinoma was detected clinically and transabdominally in one case but TVS detected two cases. Hence TVS 66% sensitive and 100% specific in diagnosis as compared to TAS (33% sensitive and 100% specific). There were 2 cases of endocervical carcinoma. Both were not detected clinically. TVS detected both cases where as TAS detected only one case. Hence TVS is more accurate in diagnosis of endocervical carcinoma as told by Wu et al 1999. Ruangvutilert et al (2004) in 111 patients of endometrial carcinoma found sensitivity, specificity and ppv of TVS as 69.4%, 70.6% and 53.2% respectively. In **2008, Fotopoulou et al**, studied thirty patients with endometrial cancer prospectively. Systematic staging regarding tumor size (T), infiltration of the cervix (Cx) and ovaries (OV), peritoneal carcinomatosis (PC), bladder invasion (BI), intestinal invasion (II) and ascites (A) was assessed using TVS. Preoperative diagnosis was correctly made by TVS in 93.4% of the patients.So , TVS is a sensitive and non-invasive method for preoperative diagnosis of suspected endometrial cancer.

Accuracy of ultrasound in predicting malignancy by various authors are as follows :

Authors	No. of cases	Sensitivity	Specificity
Kobayashi (1976)	406	71	73
Meire et al (1978)	51	83	91
Pussel (1980)	25	83	84
Hermann et al (1987)	240	82	93
Finkler et al (1988)	102	62	95
Benacerraf et al (1998)	100	80	87
Gran berg et al (1989)	180	82	92
Sassone et al (1991)	143	100	83
Our study	47	TAS 100	90.6
		TVS 100	97.5

Diagnostic accuracy of ultrasound has been reported is as follows

Authors	Diagnostic Accuracy
Fleisher et al	71%
Morley Barnett	79%
Jones, Walsh and others	79%
Thomas L Lawson	91%
Sood et al	90%
Our study TAS TVS	94.6% 96.6%

CONCLUSION:

Real time ultrasound thus can be help in:

Pre and postoperative follow up of pelvic masses and for therapeutic purposes and thus obviating the need of surgery in many cases.

So it may be said that ultrasonography is a valuable aid in assessing pelvic masses. Being noninvasive, free from radiation hazard, cheap and time saving it may be employed in all cases, as an investigation of choice in pelvic masses.

In conclusion the question is whether we will do only TVS because of high accuracy as evident in our study? Each type of sonography has its merits and demerits. Hence we can say that TAS and TVS are complimentary technique which should be used together for evaluation of pelvic masses.

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