

睪丸結石對不孕男性精液品質之影響

The influence of testicular microlithiasis to sperm quality in infertile male population

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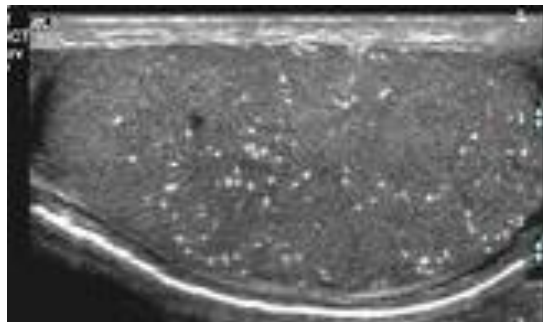
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Objective: To access the incidence of testicular microlithiasis in infertile male population and to investigate its influence to sperm quality.

Materials and Methods: It was a retrospective study. There were total 171 male patients who presented to infertility clinic and received scrotal ultrasound due to suboptimal semen analysis, scrotal symptoms or previously diagnosed varicocele in Jan 2012 to Dec 2012. All scrotal ultrasound results and available comparable semen analysis data were reviewed.

Results: Varicocele was the leading diagnosis of scrotal ultrasound and its incidence was 72.5% (124/171). There were 75 cases who had bilateral varicocele and 49 cases who had unilateral. Testicular microlithiasis was found in 16 cases and 12 cases among them had co-existing pathology of varicocele. Only 4 cases had testicular microlithiasis alone. In these 171 cases, 86 comparable semen analysis results were available. According to the scrotal ultrasound, 55 cases had varicocele, 13 cases had microlithiasis, and 18 cases had neither varicocele nor microlithiasis (control group). The results showed poorer sperm quality in both varicocele group and microlithiasis group compared with control. Besides, sperm concentration and motility were worst in microlithiasis group although there was no statistical difference.



Conclusions: The incidence of testicular microlithiasis in infertile male population was 9.4% (16/171), and it was higher than expectation. Most of them had co-existing scrotal pathology. The sperm quality of microlithiasis group was the poorer than varicocele group and control group although there was no significant difference. The study numbers in this study was small, and further studies need to be carried out to determine the significance of this condition.