Volume 19, No 2 | International Journal of Radiation Research, April 2021

# Solitary fibrous tumor of the urinary bladder in an 85-year-old woman: Case report and review of literature

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► ***Case report***

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**Revised:** January 2020
**Accepted:** April 2020

***Int. J. Radiat. Res., April 2021; 19(2): 465-471***

**DOI:** 10.29252/ijrr.19.2.465

## ABSTRACT

A solitary fibrous tumor of the urinary bladder is an extremely rare type of mesenchymal tumor. We present a case of an 85-year-old woman with a large (14.5×10.7×10.1 cm) protruding intravesical mass detected by computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which was proven to be a solitary fibrous tumor through histopathological examination. The clinicopathologic and radiological features are here discussed, along with a review of the published literature on this topic. Solitary fibrous tumors of the urinary bladder are more common in men (76%), with a peak incidence in people 40–60 years old. Most such tumors show heterogeneous intensity with a complete capsule. A decrease in the T2WI signal with an increase in collagen tissue content and gradual enhancement on CT/MRI images are their main features. Most such tumors are positive for CD34 under immunohistochemistry (100% in 24 available cases). The majority of tumors (88%) studied have been non-malignant and most patients (95.5%) showed favorable prognosis after a long-term follow-up.

***Keywords:*** *Solitary fibrous tumor, urinary bladder, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, histopathological.*

## INTRODUCTION

A solitary fibrous tumor (SFT) is a rare spindle cell tumor of the mesenchymal origin. It accounts for under 2% of all soft-tissue tumors that usually involve the pleura. An extra-pleural SFT of the urinary bladder is an extremely rare type of mesenchymal tumor [1, 2]. We here present a new case of an SFT arising in the urinary bladder, in the oldest patient yet reported case, and we review 24 cases published in pertinent works from 1997 on, focusing on the importance of preoperative diagnosis (table 1) [1-21].

### *Case history*

An 85-year-old woman presented with dysuria and hesitancy lasting two months. During physical examination, a movable firm mass over the lower abdomen was noted. Subsequent pelvic computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a protruding intravesical mass with a complete capsule arising from the trigone of the urinary bladder. CT revealed a well-defined, oval-like solid mass measuring 14.5 × 10.7 × 10.1 cm (figure 1a). MRI showed the mass to be isointense in T1-weighted images (T1WI) (figure 1b), of heterogeneous intensity with a thin low-signal capsule in T2-weighted images (T2WI) (Figure 1c), and slightly hyperintense under diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI). The tumor showed map-like, gradual enhancement on MRI contrast-enhanced images (figure 1d-f).

Partial cystectomy was used for complete resection of the tumor. An elliptical gray-white tumor that showed a smooth surface upon gross inspection was resected, measuring 14×12×6 cm (figure 2a). There was a congestion on the surface of the mass, which was dark red, about

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[ DOI: 10.52547/ijrr.19.2.27 ]

**Table 1.** Reported 25 cases of SFT in the urinary bladder: clinical and surgical features.

| Case No. | Reference | Age | Gender | Symptoms | Size (cm) | Immunohistochemistry (positive) | Non-malignant / malignant | Treatment | Follow-up (months) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bainbridge 1997[3] | 50 | Female | Urinary frequency | 5.2 | CD34, CD99, SMA, MSA, desmin | Non-malignant | TURBT | 18 |
| 2 | Bainbridge 1997[3] | 42 | Male | Pelvic pressure | 20 | CD34, CD99 | Non-malignant | Wide excision | 6 |
| 3 | Westra 2000 [4] | 67 | Male | Asymptomatic, incidental cystoscopy finding | 4 | CD34 | Malignant | Cystoprostatectomy | 9 |
| 4 | Westra 2000 [4] | 67 | Male | Asymptomatic, incidental MRI finding | NA | CD34 | Non-malignant | TURBT | 1 |
| 5 | Corti 2001[5] | 50 | Male | Pelvic pain, dysuria, urinary bleeding | 6.5 | CD34, bcl-2, vimentin, IGF-Ⅱ mRNA | Non-malignant | Cystectomy | 24 |
| 6 | Kim 2004[6] | 56 | Male | Voiding difficulty, frequency, residual urine sensation | 12 | CD34, bcl-2 | Non-malignant | Wide excision | 12 |
| 7 | Leite 2004[7] | 60 | Male | Incidental MRI finding for prostate adenocarcinoma | 3.2 | CD34, bcl-2 | Non-malignant | Wide excision | 11 |
| 8 | Saint-Blancard 2006[8] | 38 | Male | Dysuria, palpable abdominal mass | 15 | CD34, vimentin, bcl-2 | Non-malignant | Cystectomy | 30 |
| 9 | Tzelepi 2007 [9] | 59 | Female | Intermittent hematuria | 8.5 | CD34, vimentin, CD99, CD68 | Non-malignant | Cystectomy | 77 |
| 10 | Heinzelbecker 2008[2] | 24 | Female | Hematuria | 8.5 | CD34, bcl-2, vimentin, CD99 | Non-malignant | Partial cystectomy | 24 |
| 11 | López Martín 2010[10] | 59 | Male | Voiding difficulty, frequency, residual urine sensation | 4 | CD34, bcl-2, vimentin, CD99 | Non-malignant | Wide excision | 24 |
| 12 | Wang 2010 [11] | 50 | Male | Hematuria | 8 | CD34, vimentin | Non-malignant | Wide excision | 9 |
| 13 | Bruzzone 2010[12] | 74 | Male | Chills, diaphoresis, acute abdominal pain, hematuria | 10 | NA | Non-malignant | Wide excision | NA |
| 14 | Seike 2012 [13] | 41 | Female | Incidental finding | 5.2 | CD34, bcl-2 | Non-malignant | TURBT | NA |
| 15 | Cheng 2012 [14] | 67 | Male | Persistent pain over lower abdomen | 16 | CD34, CD99 | Malignant | Partial cystectomy | 18 |
| 16 | Wang 2012 [15] | 72 | Male | Incidental MRI finding | 8.5 | CD34, bcl-2 | Non-malignant | TURBT | 16 |
| 17 | Otta 2014 [16] | 78 | Male | Hematuria | NA | CD34, bcl-2, vimentin, CD99 | Non-malignant | TURBT | 5 |
| 18 | Spairani 2014[17] | 60 | Male | Voiding difficulty | 9 | CD34, bcl-2, vimentin | Non-malignant | Partial cystectomy | 11 |
| 19 | Dozier 2015 [18] | 41 | Male | Weight loss, progressive abdominal bloating | 28 | CD34, bcl-2, vimentin | Malignant | Partial cystectomy | 8 |
| 20 | Mustafa 2016[1] | 36 | Female | Urgency, occasional straining to void, increased abdominal girth | 10 | CD34, bcl-2, vimentin, CD99 | Non-malignant | Cystectomy | NA |
| 21 | Tanaka 2016 [19] | 60 | Male | Incidental Ultrasound finding | 8 | CD34, Ki-67, STAT6 | Non-malignant | Wide excision | 24 |
| 22 | Tanaka 2016 [19] | 60 | Male | Incidental Ultrasound finding | 4 | CD34, CD99, c-kit, Bcl-2 | Non-malignant | Partial cystectomy | 120 |
| 23 | Lhungay 2017[20] | 70 | Male | Worsening urinary incontinence, urgency | 9 | CD34, bcl-2, vimentin, CD99 | Non-malignant | TURBT | 12 |
| 24 | Urbina-Lima 2019[21] | 61 | Male | Hypoinsulinemic hypoglycemia | 23 | CD34, vimentin | Non-malignant | Partial cystectomy | 12 |
| 25 | Present case | 85 | Female | Dysuria, hesitancy | 14 | CD34, CD56 | Non-malignant | Partial cystectomy | 6 |

TUBRT, transurethral resection of the bladder; TURP, transurethral resection of prostate; NA, not available.

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3×4 cm in size, and the rest of the tumor was smooth (figure 2b). Microscopically, cellular areas with spindle-shaped or ovoid cells arranged in pattern-less among sparse collagen fibers were observed. These cells had poorly defined cytoplasm, homogeneous nuclei and inconspicuous nucleoli (figure 3a-c). Immunohistochemical analysis showed the tumor cells to have positive expression of CD34 (figure 3d) and slight positive expression of CD56 (figure 3e), but no expression of CD31 (figure 3f), HMB45, Chromogranin A, Cytokeratin (CK), CK20, CK7, SMA, Synaptophysin and S-100. Based on histology and immunohistochemistry, the neoplasm established the diagnosis of SFT. There was no evidence of tumor recurrence during a 6-month follow-up.

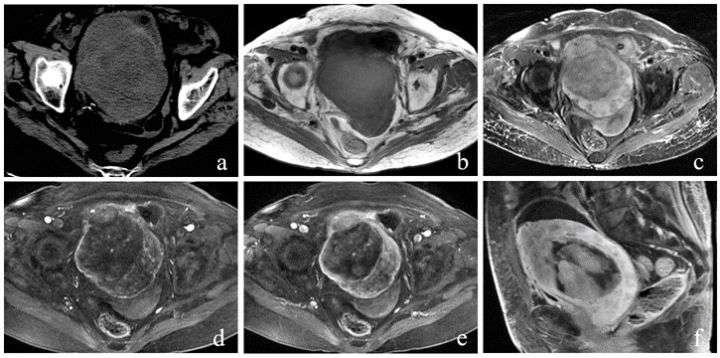


**Figure 1. (a)** CT revealed a large protruding intravesical mass with a complete capsule and components of cystic. **(b-f)** MRI revealed an elliptical mass in the urinary bladder which was isointense on T1WI, heterogeneous intensity on T2WI, and accompanied by gradual enhancement.

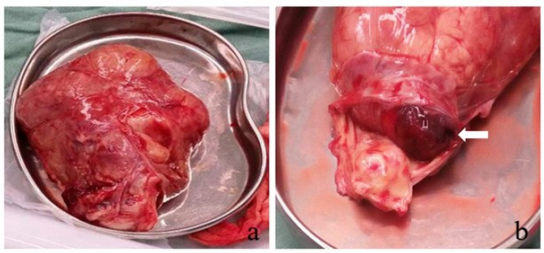


**Figure 2. (a)** Gross picture of the resection specimen showed a well-circumscribed mass measuring 14×12×6cm. **(b)** There was a congestion on the surface of the mass, which was dark red, about 3×4 cm in size (White arrow).

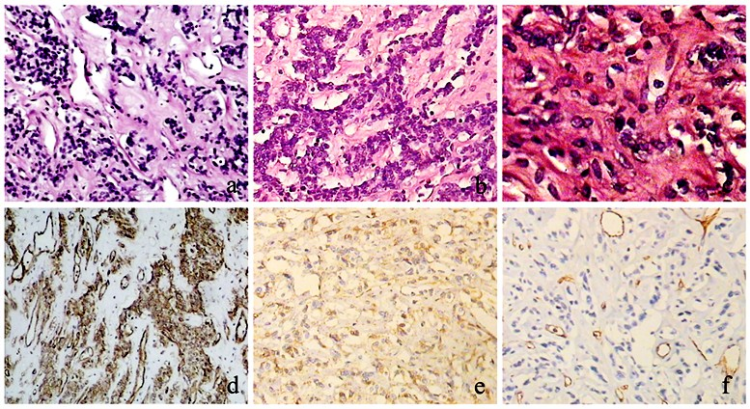


**Figure 3. (a-c)** Hematoxylin and eosin stained section showed a spindle cell proliferation in a dense collagenous stroma. (H&E, 100×, 200× and 400×, respectively). **(d-f)** Immunohistochemistry of CD34, CD56 and CD31, respectively (DAB, 200×). Staining pattern confirmed SFT.

## DISCUSSION

The SFT was first recognized as a distinct neoplasm by Klemperer and Rabin in 1931, which was initially described in the pleura [22]. SFTs usually involve the pleura, pericardium, and peritoneum, but they are extremely rare in the urinary bladder, with the first case reported in 1997 [3]. To our knowledge, only 24 cases of SFT in the urinary bladder have been reported to date. We reviewed the 24 cases and summarized their clinicopathological and imaging features in tables 1 and 2 to emphasize the importance of preoperative diagnosis.

According to published data, including those of our patient, SFT of the urinary bladder is more common in men (76%), in whom the age of onset ranged from 24 to 85 years (mean age,



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**Table 2.** Imaging features of the reported cases of SFT arising in the urinary bladder.

| Case No | Reference | Age | Gender | Imaging features | Location |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Corti 2001 [5] | 50 | Male | Echography, CT and X-ray urography showed a well-circumscribed pelvic mass. | Between prostate and urinary bladder |
| 2 | Kim 2004 [6] | 56 | Male | Ultrasonography revealed a heterogeneous echogenic intravesical mass. CT scans showed about a 12cm sized protruding intravesical mass without perivesical infiltration. | The dome of the bladder |
| 3 | Leite 2004 [7] | 60 | Male | MRI identified a tumoral mass measuring 3.0cm, homogeneous, well delimited, hyperintense in T2WI, showing intense enhancement following injection of contrast agent. | Close to the left lateral bladder wall |
| 4 | Saint-Blancard 2006[8] | 38 | Male | Ultrasound revealed a heterogeneous bladder mass about 15 cm in diameter. Intravenous urography found a laterovesical tumor without hydronephrosis. | The trigone of the urinary bladder |
| 5 | Heinzelbecker 2008[2] | 24 | Female | At excretory urography, the upper urinary tract on the left side was slightly dilated, and the indwelling catheter was displaced to the left. CT revealed a large tumor filling the urinary bladder with suspected connection to the tumor of the right ovary. | The left side wall of the bladder |
| 6 | Wang 2010 [11] | 50 | Male | CT showed a protruding intravesical mass without perivesical infiltration, 7.5 cm × 7.1 cm in size, and the internal density was not uniform. | The right lateral wall of the bladder |
| 7 | Cheng 2012 [14] | 67 | Male | MRI of the pelvis revealed a large lobulated soft-tissue solid tumor. The hyperintense cystic components were considered to indicate areas of central necrosis. | The dome of the urinary bladder |
| 8 | Spairani 2014[17] | 60 | Male | CT scans confirmed a protruding intravesical mass without perivesical infiltration, 7.6 × 6 cm in size. | Occupying a large section of vesical volume |
| 9 | Dozier 2015 [18] | 41 | Male | CT scan revealed a 26.8 × 21cm intra-abdominal mass occupying most of his abdominal cavity. | Abutting the superior dome of bladder |
| 10 | Mustafa 2016[1] | 36 | Female | MRI showing large heterogeneous solid T2 signal intensity nodule in the pelvis measuring 6.7 × 7.5 × 7.2 cm with iso-enhancement of the uterine parenchyma and appears to be connection to left aspect of cervix. | The left lateral bladder wall |
| 11 | Tanaka 2016[19] | 60 | Male | CT revealed a well-delineated and homogeneous retrovesical solid mass that measured 5 × 3 cm in diameter. MRI confirmed this noninfiltrative solid tumor, with a thin capsule of low signal in T2WI. | The posterior wall of the bladder |
| 12 | Lhungay 2017[20] | 70 | Male | CT scan with and without contrast showed a large, 8.0 × 6.7 × 7.2cm, heterogeneous enhancing mass that encompassed most of the left half of the bladder and appeared to be invading through the bladder wall, with possible prostatic invasion. | The left lateral wall and trigone area of the bladder |
| 13 | Urbina-Lima 2019 [21] | 61 | Male | CT: voluminous abdominal-pelvic mass, predominantly solid, of 15 × 23 × 22 cm compressing adjacent structures | The posterior bladder wall |
| 14 | Present case | 85 | Female | CT revealed a well-defined solid mass with mixed density. It was isointense on T1WI, heterogeneous signal on T2WI, and a slightly hyperintense on DWI, accompanied by heterogeneous and gradual enhancement during CT/MRI contrast enhancement. | The trigone of the urinary bladder |

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57.08 years), and the peak incidence was 40–60 years old. SFTs of the urinary bladder were usually asymptomatic at first. Urinary tract irritation, hematuria, pelvic compression, and other symptoms can develop as the tumor grows. Some tumors secrete insulin-like growth factor II, which can lead to hypoglycemia [5, 21, 23]. In our review of 24 cases, including our case, 8 (32%) of the patients had difficulty voiding, 7 (28%) incidental imaging findings, 7 (28%) discomfort of the lower abdomen, and 6 (24%) presented with hematuria.

The SFT of the urinary bladder often presented as a well-defined elliptical soft tissue mass, and a large tumor volume with an average size of 10.4 cm (range from 3.2 to 28 cm). It usually appeared as heterogeneous density on CT. For this reason, cystic and hemorrhagic areas were visible inside the tumor. The map-like heterogeneous enhancement and gradual enhancement during CT contrast enhancement were helpful to the preoperative assessment of tumoral vascularity and indicated regions of tumoral hemorrhage and cystic degeneration. Intra-tumoral calcification was rare but not specific. MRI showed isolated lesions with clear boundaries. These were isointense or slightly hypointense on T1WI and isointense or of heterogeneous intensity on T2WI. Cystic and mucosal components showed a high signal on T2WI. T2WI signal decreased as collagen tissue content increased, a characteristic finding of SFT. Gradual enhancement and the delayed enhancement were the most significant, which was its main feature [24, 25]. According to our review, 13 of 24 cases with available imaging data showing that all tumors had clear boundaries and heterogeneous intensity, which contributed to the diagnostic process (table 2). In our case, the neoplasm showed heterogeneous intensity on T2WI. This and the hypointensity on T2WI especially suggested collagen tissue content, and the tumor showed distinct gradual enhancement, all of which were consistent with the typical findings of SFTs.

However, the final diagnosis of an SFT involving the urinary bladder relies on histopathological features. Grossly, the SFT is a round solid mass with a smooth boundary. It is grayish-white to tan due to the vascular and collagen content. Hemorrhage and cystic degeneration can occur in the tumor. Microscopically, the tumor is composed of spindle cells (hypercellular areas) and hyaline collagen (hypocellular areas), which are usually arranged haphazardly. The alternate distribution of the cell's sparse and rich regions was characteristic of an SFT. Immunohistochemistry of CD34 (90%–95%), CD99 (70%), and bcl-2 was mostly positive, and CD34 is recognized as a relatively specific and accurate immunological marker [5], which is positive in all of the 24 available reported cases. Recent studies have demonstrated that immunohistochemical analysis of NAB2-STAT6 is positive in up to 100% of SFTs and can be used for confirmatory diagnostic test of SFT [26, 27]. Unfortunately, NAB2-STAT6 analysis was not performed in our case.

The treatment of choice is complete resection with negative margins. It has a favorable prognosis with long-term survival rate, and five-year overall survival approaches 100% [28]. Most SFTs of the urinary bladder (80%–90%) are non-malignant with indolent clinical courses, but can potentially recur or metastasize. Positive surgical margins, tumor diameter greater than 10 cm, and poor histology were associated with aggressive behavior. Some studies established the criteria for malignancy in SFTs including tumor size (≥10 cm), mitotic count (≥ 4/10 HPFs), high tumor cellularity, high nuclear pleomorphism, and tumor necrosis. The mitotic count (≥ 4/10 HPFs) was the only independent prognostic factor. Scores based on these factors stratify patients to low, medium or high risk and have significant prognostic value for recurrence during follow-up [29]. However, only 3 cases (12%) of malignant SFT have been reported with an average diameter of 16 cm (4 cm, 16 cm, 28 cm, respectively) [4, 14, 18]. Simultaneously, 23 of the 25 cases had tumor size information available, and the average size was approximately 10.4 cm (range: 3.2 to 28 cm). Recently, some scholars have used Imatinib for the treatment of SFTs, to good effect [30]. Similar studies have brought hope for targeted therapy

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of SFTs. Follow-up information was available in 22 patients (88%), with an average follow-up time of approximately 22 months (range: 1 month to 120 months). However, 3 cases presented with aggressive behavior but no tumor recurrence. Only 1 case of tumor recurrence occurred in among the remaining cases of non-malignant tumors, reported by Otta *et al.* [16]. Although most SFTs have favorable prognoses, long-term follow-up is necessary to determine the behavior of an SFT in the urinary bladder.

## CONCLUSION

An SFT of the urinary bladder is an extremely rare type of mesenchymal tumor. We here describe a female patient with an SFT originating in the urinary bladder. This is the oldest patient reported. Some characteristic features of CT and MRI contribute to preoperative diagnosis. The treatment of choice is complete resection with negative margins. Long-term follow-up is necessary for this patient to ensure no local recurrence, which we recommend for all cases of SFTs.

### *Statement of Ethics*

The materials in the manuscript were obtained strictly according to the ethical standards. Informed consent of the patient was obtained.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*This study has received funding by grants from the National Natural Science Foundation (81471652, 81771824, 81701681).*

***Conflicts of interest*:** *Declared none.*

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