## **Catamenial Sciatica**

Alexandra C. Nevin Lam, MD, FRCSC, Sukhbir S. Singh, MD, FRCSC, Nicholas A. Leyland, MD, MHCM, FRCSC

A1-year-old woman presented with dysmenorrhea. In addition, she described having catamenial left-sided sciatica and leg weakness for two years. During an earlier neurological assessment, she had been found to have a small left sided L5-S1 disc herniation on MRI, but this was felt not to be causing her symptoms.

On examination a 2 cm nodule was palpable superior and lateral to the left ischial spine. At laparoscopy this nodule was found encased in the left pararectal space (Figure). Using the CO<sub>2</sub> laser, the nodule was circumscribed and resected with other foci of endometriosis. At her postoperative visit, the patient was pain free. Histological assessment confirmed endometriosis in the nodule.

Sciatica is a rare presenting symptom of endometriosis. The average delay to diagnosis is 3.7 years. Two-thirds of cases are right-sided. Possible etiologies include cyclic inflammation and hemorrhage of pelvic peritoneal pocket endometriosis with resultant perineural fibrosis, or

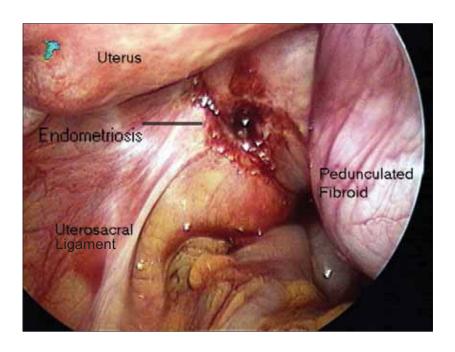
referred pain from endometriosis of the posterolateral pelvic peritoneum.<sup>4</sup> Regardless, neurological sequelae may be permanent if the cause is not recognized and treated expeditiously.

Consent to publish these images has been obtained from the patient.

## **REFERENCES**

- Salazar-Grueso E, Roos R. Sciatic endometriosis: a treatable sensorimotor mononeuropathy. Neurology 1986;36(10):1360–3.
- Vercellini P, Chapron C, Fedele L, Frontino G, Zaina B, Crosignani PG. Evidence of asymmetric distribution of sciatic nerve endometriosis. Obstet Gynecol 2003;102(2):383–7.
- Zager EL, Pfeifer SM, Brown MJ, Torosian MH, Hackney DB. Catamenial mononeuropathy and radiculopathy: a treatable neuropathic disorder. J Neurosurg 1998;88:827–30.
- Vilos GA, Vilos AW, Haebe JJ. Laparoscopic findings, management, histopathology, and outcomes in 25 women with cyclic leg pain. J Am Assoc Gynecol Laparosc 2002;9(2):145–51.

J Obstet Gynaecol Can 2008;30(7):555



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Toronto, Toronto ON

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, The Ottawa Hospital, University of Ottawa, Ottawa ON

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, St. Joseph's Health Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto ON