Heterotaxy Polysplenia Syndrome In An Adult With Unique Vascular Anomalies: Case Report With Review Of Literature

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ABSTRACT

The pattern of anatomical organization of the thoraco-abdominal visceral and vascular structures which is not the expected normal arrangement, is called as situs ambiguous or heterotaxy syndrome. Patients with heterotaxy syndrome exhibit a wide spectrum of anatomical variations involving thoraco-abdominal structures. We present here an incidental finding of heterotaxy syndrome associated with unique vascular anomalies in a 35 year old male patient evaluated initially for nephrolithiasis by ultrasonography, and intravenous pyelography. Further evaluation by multidetector row computed tomography showed bilateral bilobed lungs with hyparterial bronchi, cardiac apex to the left, five branches from left-sided aortic arch with retroesophageal right subclavian artery, interrupted inferior vena cava with azygos continuation, left renal vein continuing as hemiazygos vein and replaced common hepatic artery arising from the superior mesenteric artery. Other vascular anomalies include right internal iliac vein joining the left common iliac vein and precaval course of the single main right renal artery. Anomalies involving abdominal organs include right-sided stomach, midline liver, multiple splenules (polysplenia) in right upper quadrant of abdomen, short truncated pancreas, intestinal malrotation, inversion of superior mesenteric vessels and a preduodenal portal vein. To the best of our knowledge this is the first report of association of left renal vein continuing as hemiazygos vein, precaval right renal artery and anomalous branching pattern of aortic arch with heterotaxy syndrome.

CASE REPORT

CASE REPORT

A 35 year old male was referred to our imaging center for the evaluation of suspected nephrolithiasis. Abdominal ultrasonography (USG) and Intravenous pyelography (IVP) revealed a large stone impacted at the pelviureteric junction (PUJ) and another small stone in the lower calyx of right kidney [Figure 1a,b]. Incidental observation of discordant position of gastric gas bubble on the right side in pyelogram and position of gall bladder in USG [Figure-1 c], prompted us for further evaluation of the patient by contrast enhanced computed tomography (CECT). Scanning was done from

suprasternal notch to the level of pubic symphysis. A plethora of congenital anomalies involving thoraco-abdominal viscero-vascular structures were seen indicating the presence of heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome.

Cardiac shadow was normal with the apex pointing to the left suggesting levocardia [Figure 2a]. Transthoracic echocardiogram performed at a separate cardiology center was normal. No anomaly was observed in the cardiac chambers. Left sided arch of aorta gave rise to five branches, right common carotid, left common carotid, left vertebral, left subclavian and the retroesophageal right subclavian artery [Figure 3]. Right lung showed absence of horizontal (minor) fissure and presence of only two lobes [Figure 2d]. So the patient had bilateral bilobed lungs (thoracic left isomerism) with hyparterial bronchi [Figure 2b, 2e]. The azygos vein was dilated and appeared to be the continuation of inferior vena cava (IVC) [Figure 2b] and drained into superior vena cava [Figure 2c].

The infrarenal segment of the IVC was normally positioned and after receiving the right renal vein continued as azygos vein (Interrupted IVC with azygos continuation) passing into the retrocrural space [Figure 4a,b]. The left renal vein instead of joining the IVC entered the retrocrural space and continued as hemiazygos vein because the preaortic segment of the vein was absent [Figure 4b,c]. The hemiazygos vein crossed the midline in the posterior mediastinum and drained into azygos vein [Figure 4d]. After draining the hepatic veins, the suprahepatic segment of IVC opened into right atrium [Figure 8c]. Variant formation of IVC by the union of right external iliac vein and left common iliac vein was observed [Figure 5]. The right internal iliac vein.

The stomach was located in the right upper quadrant of abdomen with eight splenic masses (polysplenia) located along the greater curvature [Figure 6a,b]. The splenic artery originating from the celiac trunk, was seen directed towards the right side. The gall bladder was on the left side but closer to midline with a more or less symmetrical bridging liver [Figure 7a]. A replaced common hepatic artery (CHA) was taking origin from the superior mesenteric artery (SMA) [Figure 8 a]. A preduodenal portal vein (PDPV) was observed lying anterior to head of pancreas and duodenum [Figure 6a,b, 7b]. The pancreas was short and truncated with the agenesis of part of the body and the tail. The head of the pancreas was present on the left side within the reversed loop of duodenum [Figure 7b].

The relationship of superior mesenteric vessels was reversed with the superior mesenteric vein (SMV) lying to the left of superior mesenteric artery [Figure 7c, 8b]. The small bowel loops were located on the left side in the upper abdomen and the ileocaecal junction located in the left iliac fossa to the left of midline with the SMA directed downwards and to the left. Ascending colon was situated on the left side and the descending colon on the right side with the inferior mesenteric artery directed downwards and to the right. The location of the bowel loops and the reversal of position of superior mesenteric vessels were suggestive of intestinal malrotation [Figure 8b,c]. No anomaly could be detected in the urogenital organs but the single main right renal artery had a precaval course crossing anterior to IVC to reach renal hilum [Figure 9].

DISCUSSION

Heterotaxy is defined as "an abnormality where the internal thoraco-abdominal organs demonstrate abnormal arrangement across the left- right axis of the body" [1,2]. Situs ambiguous is defined as "an abnormality in which there are components of both situs solitus (normal asymmetrical arrangement) and situs inversus (reversal or mirror-image of normal arrangement) in the same person and can be considered to be present when the thoraco-abdominal organs are not clearly lateralized"[1]. Therefore, all patients with heterotaxy can be considered to have situs ambiguous and all patients with situs ambiguous also have heterotaxy syndrome [2]. A confusing array of terms are still being used to classify the heterotaxy, which is generally classified into polysplenia (left isomerism) and asplenia (right isomerism) syndromes. Polysplenia is classically described as left isomerism or bilateral left handedness referring to duplication of left sided structures with bilateral bilobed lungs, bilateral hyparterial bronchi and bilateral pulmonary atria in addition to presence of multiple spleens [3,4]. In nearly 50 % - 90 % cases, polysplenia is associated with complex cardiac anomalies and only about 10% patients may reach adulthood without any complications [5].

Etiology & Demographics

The exact cause of heterotaxia polysplenia syndrome is unknown. Disruption of left-right axis determination during early embryonic development results in a wide variety of cardiac and extracardiac malformations that characterize the human heterotaxy syndrome. There is no single pathognomonic anomaly that characterizes this rare entity. Recent studies have shown that more than 80 genes are required for normal asymmetric left-right organ development. The genes which are implicated in left-right laterality determination and heterotaxy syndrome include, ZIC 3, NODAL, LEFTY 2, ACVR2B, CRYPTIC, CRELD-1, NKX2.5 and SHROOM 3 [6,7]. Microdeletion of Xq26 and mutations in some of these genes have been identified in patients with heterotaxy.

Left to right patterning is one of the most important embryological events for asymmetrical organs like heart, lungs and digestive system. Accurate sequential delivery and expression of precise genetic signals along the left-right axis is responsible for proper morphogenesis and positioning of the internal organs. Different organ systems may have separate left-right signaling systems and failure of normal coordination might have resulted in a set of abnormalities such as situs anomalies of abdominal organs associated with normally positioned heart.

Polysplenia is a rare heterotaxy disorder with a reported incidence of 1 per 250,000 live births [8]. Rose et al has

reported that situs ambiguous has an incidence of 1 per 40,000 live births [9]. Abut et al has estimated the incidence of situs inversus to be 1 in 10000 live births and situs ambiguous to be 0.25 in 10000 live births [10]. Gatrad et al reported that the situs ambiguous is more common in a highly inbred community of Asian Muslims (1 in 2700) in comparison to English population (1 in 24000) [11]. Asians have a higher prevalence of heterotaxy syndrome [2]. Polysplenia syndrome is more common in females. It is difficult to calculate exact incidence of polysplenia in adults because of absence of severe congenital heart disease. Situs anomalies are detected incidentally in adults during imaging evaluation for unrelated conditions. Since there is no single pathognomonic anomaly that characterizes this rare entity, it is suggested that the wide spectrum of anomalies need to be described individually [12]. Table-1 and Table-2 summarize the clinical and radiological features of adult cases of heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome.

Clinical & Imaging Findings

Cardiac anomalies & Viscero-atrial situs: Heterotaxy syndrome is known to be associated with complex cardiac anomalies which are less common in polysplenia than in asplenia [13]. Approximately 10% of patients with polysplenia syndrome may reach adulthood without any complications. It is generally expected that in polysplenia bilateral pulmonary atria are present with right pulmonary veins opening into the systemic right atrium. But in adult cases of polysplenia cardiac anomalies are rare and our patient did not show any cardiac anomaly and the cardiac apex was normal, pointing to the left (Levocardia). Both right and left pulmonary veins were normally opening into left atrium. The left-sided arch of aorta was giving origin to five branches, the right common carotid, left common carotid, left vertebral, left subclavian and an aberrant retroesophageal right subclavian artery and it is the only anomaly observed. Though association of aberrant right subclavian artery with heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome has been reported in the literature [14,15], aortic origin of left vertebral artery has not been reported so far with polysplenia syndrome. The authors could find only two case reports of association of aberrant right subclavian artery with polysplenia syndrome suggesting the extreme rarity of occurrence.

Our patient presented thoracic left isomerism in which there is presence of bilobed lungs bilaterally (the right lung had only two lobes with absence of horizontal fissure) with hyparterial bronchi. Both right and left main bronchi were passing below the corresponding pulmonary artery to reach the lung hilum. Bilateral bilobed lungs were present only in 55 % of 146 autopsied cases of polysplenia reviewed [4]. Presence of bilateral bilobed lungs with heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome has been reported in the literature [16,17]. Recently Burton et al in an autopsy case series reported the presence of bilateral bilobed lungs in 48.9 % cases of plysplenia [18].

Venous anomalies: Interruption of the IVC with azygos / hemiazygos continuation is the second most common abnormality associated with polysplenia syndrome [13]. Out of 19 case reports reviewed, right sided IVC was present in 7 and left sided IVC in 9 cases [Table-1]. The suprarenal segment of the IVC was absent due to failure of development of anastomosis between right subcardinal vein and the hepatocardiac channel (derived from right vitelline vein) but the suprahepatic segment is usually present draining the hepatic veins and opening directly into the right atrium. In the present case, the renal segment of the normally placed IVC after receiving the right renal vein entered the retrocrural space and continued as the azygos vein while the left renal vein continued as hemiazygos vein. Normally the azygos vein begins as lumbar azygos vein from the posterior aspect of IVC at the level of renal vein and the hemiazygos vein is similarly connected to left renal vein. The azygos and the hemiazygos veins develop from thoracic part of the embryonic right and left supracardinal veins which are connected caudally to corresponding subcardinal veins. The preaortic segment of the left renal vein was absent due to failure of development of intersubcardinal anastomosis and the persistence and enlargement of connection between left supracardinal and subcardinal veins result in hemiazygos continuation of left renal vein. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case report of association of left renal vein continuing as hemiazygos with hetreotaxy polysplenia syndrome. Absence of right sided IVC with hemiazygos continuation of left IVC and right renal vein joining the azygos vein was reported in a 10 year old boy with heterotaxy syndrome [19].

Formation of IVC was also anomalous in the present case. The IVC was formed by the union of left common iliac vein (LCIV) with right external iliac vein (REIV). The right internal iliac vein (RIIV) crossed the midline to drain into LCIV. The right common iliac vein was not formed. Though sporadic case reports on anomalous formation of IVC by the union of LCIV and REIV have appeared in the literature [20,21], its association with heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome has not been reported previously. To the best of our knowledge the present case is the first such association of anomalous IVC formation with polysplenia.

Splenic and Gastric anomalies: In polysplenia syndrome, by definition, multiple spleens, number varying from 2 to 16, are present either on the left or right side, but mostly along the greater curvature of stomach. In the present case both stomach and eight splenules were located in the right upper quadrant. Out of 19 case reports analyzed (Table-1) right sided stomach was observed in 9 cases and right sided spleens in 9 cases. Discordant position between stomach and spleen in one case was reviewed by Gayer et al [5] and another case was reported by Applegate et al [12] (Table-2). Applegate et al reported the presence of right sided stomach in 5 cases and a single spleen in 6 out of 10 cases with polysplenia syndrome [12]. Reviewing abdominal manifestations of situs anomalies, Fulcher and Turner reported polysplenia in 7 out of 8 cases [22]. In another review, right sided stomach was observed in 14 out of 23 cases [23]. In an autopsy case series 87.0 % cases of polysplenia had right sided stomach [18]. Normal clockwise rotation during development brings the stomach to the left side and counterclockwise rotation brings it to the right side. Because spleen develops in the dorsal mesogastrium, discordant position of spleen and stomach is not expected. and only two cases of right sided stomach with left sided spleens were reported [5,12].

Pancreatic anomalies: Truncated or short pancreas, due to congenital agenesis of dorsal pancreas, is one of the frequently associated anomalies with polysplenia syndrome. Partial agenesis of dorsal pancreas results in absence of tail and part of body of the pancreas as in the present case. Both splenic and pancreatic anomalies occur together in the heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome because both organs develop in the dorsal mesogastrium. Truncated pancreas is observed in 8 out of 19 case reports analyzed [Table-1]. Other pancreatic anomalies reported to be associated with polysplenia syndrome include annular pancreas, pancreas divisum and pancreatic malrotation [24]. In the present case the head of pancreas was observed on the left side in the concavity of reversed loop of duodenum extending up to the midline. Though short and truncated pancreas was associated with polysplenia, unfortunately, description of position of head of pancreas was lacking in most of the case reports.

Intestinal malrotation: Polysplenia syndrome may also be associated with intestinal malrotaion. Out of 19 case reports analyzed, intestinal rotational anomalies were present in 11 cases [Table-1]. In our case the small bowel loops were all located on the left side and the ileocaecal junction was located in the left iliac fossa to the left of midline. Ascending colon was present on the left side and descending colon on the right side. Moreover, third part of duodenum was not seen horizontally in its normal position. The presence of rotational anomaly is also indicated by the presence of "SMV Rotation sign" [25] and possibly by the direction of superior and inferior mesenteric arteries. Nichols and Li [25] suggested that the SMV rotation sign on CT is a very useful radiographic finding that should suggest a diagnosis of intestinal malrotation. They argued that the SMV lying in the mesentery will describe a counterclockwise rotation around the SMA, the axis of the midgut rotational process, during normal development. The final position of the SMV relative to SMA reflects the degree of rotation that has occurred. In the present case the SMV was present on the left side of SMA (reversal of the normal relationship). It was also noticed that the SMA was directed downwards and to the left and IMA downwards and to the right correlating with the position of bowel loops. Fulcher and Turner observed intestinal rotational anomalies in 7 out of 8 cases [22].Malrotated intestine was seen in 60.4 % cases of polysplenia in an autopsy case series [18].

Preduodenal Portal Vein (PDPV): Preduodenal portal vein is another anomaly frequently associated with polysplenia syndrome and Gayer et al described this anomaly in 7 out of 8 cases of his own series [5] (Table 2). Out of 19 case reports (Table 1), the PDPV was present in 7 cases. PDPV is a surgically important anomaly and can produce pressure symptoms on the duodenum and bile duct. This congenital anomaly occurs due to atrophy of part of left vitelline vein and middle and cranial anastomoses between the right and left vitelline veins and persistence of caudal ventral anastomosis.

Liver: A midline or bridging liver associated with polysplenia syndrome was observed in 8 out of 19 case reports analyzed [Table-1]. Midline symmetrical liver was observed in 58.1 % cases of polysplenia [18]. In two cases, anomalous origin of hepatic artery from superior mesenteric artery was reported [26, 27]. In our patient also the common hepatic artery was originating from the superior mesenteric artery.

No anomaly could be detected in the urogenital organs. The main right renal artery was passing anterior to IVC to reach renal hilum (precaval course). Precaval position of single main right renal artery is extremely rare and its association with polysplenia is being reported for the first time.

Treatment & Prognosis

Management of adult cases of polysplenia (left isomerism) is mainly palliative and symptom specific. In the present case, the renal stones were surgically removed. Surgical correction of cardiac anomalies are suggested in childhood. Prognosis is not good in cases of polysplenia associated with severe cardiac anomalies and it is reported that 75 % of patients die before 5 years of age [19, 23]. Only 5 - 10 % of patients without cardiac involvement reach adulthood [23]. Adult patients with polysplenia syndrome may not exhibit any specific symptoms and are generally diagnosed incidentally while investigating for other reasons as in the present case. Presence of associated anomalies such as preduodenal portal vein, intestinal malrotation and vascular anomalies are surgically important and prior knowledge of such anomalies will help to avoid complications during surgical and interventional procedures.

Conclusion

Patients with heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome exhibit a wide spectrum of anomalies involving thoraco-abdominal viscera and vessels. In many adult cases, the polysplenia syndrome is incidentally detected when the patients were being evaluated for other reasons. To avoid misdiagnosis and misinterpretation of the diverse anomalies associated with heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome, proper recognition of all the anomalies is crucial. Accurate diagnosis is also essential for proper planning of surgical and interventional procedures and to obviate damage to important structures. A thorough and comprehensive evaluation of both chest and abdomen, appropriate imaging employing modalities like echocardiography, ultrasonography, CT and MRI is essential to appreciate diverse visceral and vascular abnormalities of heterotaxy syndrome.

TEACHING POINT

Abnormal arrangement of thoraco-abdominal visceral and vascular structures in association with dysmorphism, is called heterotaxy syndrome or situs ambiguous syndrome which can be subdivided into polysplenia and asplenia syndromes. Because the heterotaxy polysplenia syndrome has no single pathognomonic feature, in every case comprehensive description of all clinical and radiological features is mandatory. The most consistently seen features associated with this syndrome are polysplenia, right sided stomach, interrupted IVC with azygos continuation, bilateral bilobed lungs, midline symmetrical liver and intestinal malrotation.

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FIGURES



Figure 1: A 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome. (a) - X-ray showing renal stones (black arrows) at PUJ and lower calyx of right kidney. Discordant position of gastric bubble was noted. (b and c)- USG images showing right kidney and gall bladder. Position of gall bladder was slightly to the left of midline. (Curvilinear 2.5 MHz probe; GE Voluson E8)



Figure 2: A 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome. (a) - Coronal image of chest and abdomen showing normal situs of heart (levocardia) with the cardiac apex pointing to left (arrow). (b)- Axial image of the chest showing enlarged azygos vein (AV- blue circle) and bilateral hyparterial bronchi (arrows) passing below their respective pulmonary arteries. RPA- right pulmonary artery; DA- descending aorta. (c) Axial image showing the azygos vein (arrow) arching over right lung root to join superior vena cava (SVC). The dilated azygos vein in the right paratracheal space may be mistaken for lymphadenopathy. (d) - VR image of the right lung showing only the major oblique fissure (arrow) and two lobes. (e) Coronal image showing hyparterial bronchi bilaterally passing below their respective pulmonary arteries (arrows). (Protocol: GE Optima 660, 64 channel, mAs 250, kV 120, slice thickness 0.625 mm; Contrast material: 85 ml Omnipaque 350 mg I/ml injected at a rate of 5 ml/s)

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Figure 3: A 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome (a and b) Axial images of chest; (c) Sagittal image and (d) VR image of heart showing five branches from left sided arch of aorta, right common carotid (1), left common carotid (2), left vertebral (3), left subclavian (4) and retroesophageal right subclavian artery (5) (Protocol: GE Optima 660, 64 channel, mAs 250, kV 120, slice thickness 0.625 mm; Contrast material: 85 ml Omnipaque 350 mg I/ml injected at a rate of 5 ml/s)



Figure 4: A 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome (a) Coronal image showing the azygos continuation of interrupted inferior vena cava. IVC after receiving right renal vein (RRV) continue as azygos vein. (b) Axial image showing the retrocrural space with abdominal aorta (AA), azygos vein (AV), and hemiazygos vein (HAV). HV- hepatic vein. (c) Coronal image showing left renal vein (arrow) turning upwards and backwards to continue as hemiazygos vein. (d) Coronal image showing the hemiazygos vein crossing the midline (arrow) to drain into azygos vein. (Protocol: GE Optima 660, 64 channel, mAs 250, kV 120, slice thickness 0.625 mm; Contrast material: 85 ml Omnipaque 350 mg I/ml injected at a rate of 5 ml/s)



Figure 5 (left): A 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome Coronal image of the pelvic region showing the formation of IVC by the union of right external iliac vein (4) with left common iliac vein (*). The left common iliac vein is formed by the union of left internal iliac (2) and left external iliac veins (3). Proximally it receives right internal iliac vein (1). (Protocol: GE Optima 660, 64 channel, mAs 250, kV 120, slice thickness 0.625 mm; Contrast material: 85 ml Omnipaque 350 mg I/ml injected at a rate of 5 ml/s)



Figure 6: 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome (a) Axial image of upper abdomen showing right-sided stomach (ST) continuing towards left as superior duodenum (D1) which is related anteriorly to preduodenal portal vein (PDPV). Multiple splenules (*) related to greater curvature of stomach can be observed in the right upper quadrant. Dilated azygos vein(AV) and hemiazygos vein (HAV) (blue circles) in the retrocrural space lie on either side of the abdominal aorta (AA). (b) Axial image showing PDPV lying anterior to head of pancreas (HP) and five splenules (SP) in the right upper quadrant supplied by a tortuous splenic artery. (Protocol: GE Optima 660, 64 channel, mAs 250, kV 120, slice thickness 0.625 mm; Contrast material: 85 ml Omnipaque 350 mg I/ml injected at a rate of 5 ml/s)

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Figure 7: 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome (a) Coronal image showing a bridging liver occupying both right and left hypochondrium and a gall bladder (GB) lying to the left of midline. (b) Axial image showing reversed loop of duodenum (D) concavity to the right occupied by pancreas (yellow outline). PDPV (blue circle). One splenule (*) is seen on the right side. A dilated Azygos (AZ) vein is seen to the right of spine. (c) Axial image showing Superior mesenteric vein (SMV) rotation sign. Note the SMV lying to the left of superior mesenteric artery (SMA) which is suggestive of intestinal malrotation. D- Descending duodenum; HP- Head of pancreas. (Protocol: GE Optima 660, 64 channel, mAs 250, kV 120, slice thickness 0.625 mm; Contrast material: 85 ml Omnipaque 350 mg I/ml injected at a rate of 5 ml/s)

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Figure 8: 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome (a) VR image showing the replaced common hepatic artery (HA) arising from the superior mesenteric artery (SMA). Splenic artery (SpA) is passing to the right side. Inferior mesenteric artery (IMA) is directed to the right.(b) Axial image showing the reversal of position of SMA and SMV. (c) Coronal image showing intestinal rotational anomaly with small bowel loops occupying the left side and the ileocaecal junction in the left iliac fossa to the left of midline. Ascending colon is present on the left side and descending colon on the right suggested by the direction of SMA (large arrow) and IMA (small arrow) (Protocol: GE Optima 660, 64 channel, mAs 250, kV 120, slice thickness 0.625 mm; Contrast material: 85 ml Omnipaque 350 mg I/ml injected at a rate of 5 ml/s)



Figure 9 (left): 35 year old male with heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome Axial image showing the main right renal artery (arrow) passing in front of the IVC (blue circle) to reach the renal hilum - precaval right renal artery. (Protocol: GE Optima 660, 64 channel, mAs 250, kV 120, slice thickness 0.625 mm; Contrast material: 85 ml Omnipaque 350 mg I/ml injected at a rate of 5 ml/s)

Author & Year	Case Diagnosis	Age & Sex	Poly splenia	Interrupted IVC	Liver	Intestinal Malrotation	Preduodenal portal vein	Stomach	Pancreas	Heart	Lungs
Vanhoenacker et al. 2001 [28]	HS	45 F	Right	LtIVC with Azy. Cont.	Left sided	NR	NR	Right	Truncated	Dextro- cardia	NR
Abut et al 2003 [10]	SA	62 F	Right	Rt./Azy.Cont.	Mid line	Yes	NR	Right	NR	ASD	Bilateral bilobed lungs
Ito et al 2003 [24]	HS	76 M	Right	Lt.IVC with azygos cont.	Midline	Nonrotation	NR	Right	Truncated	Levocardia	NR
Plata-Munoz et al 2004 [23]	PSS	56 M	Left	Rt./Azy.Cont.	NR	Yes- Levo rotation	Yes	Left	Truncated	NR	NR
Kapa et al 2007 [29]	PSS/HS	25 M	Left	Rt./Azy.Cont.	N	NR	NR	Left	Truncated	Coarctat- ion of aorta	NR
Tsutsumi et al 2007 [26]	SA	73 M	Right	Interrupted IVC	Midline (CHA from SMA)	Yes – SB - left side	Yes	Right	Pancreas divisum	Levocar- dia	NR
Maier et al 2007 [30]	PSS	30 F	Left	Lt.IVC Haz.cont.	N	Yes SB-Left LB-Right	NR	Left	Annular Pancreas	NR	NR
Seo et al. 2008 [31]	PSS	41 F	Left	NR	N (LHA from LGA)	N	Yes	Left	N	N	N
Low et al 2011 [8]	PSS	62 F	Right	Left IVC	Midline	NR	Yes	Right	Truncated	NR	Bilateral Hyparter ial bronchi
Celik et al 2011 [14]	HS	38 M	Right	NR	Left sided	NR	NR	Right	NR	PDA, aberrant RSA	NR
De Wailly et al 2011 [27]	PSS	56 F	Left	Rt./Azy.Cont.	N(HA from SMA	NR	Yes	Left	Anular pancreas	NR	NR
Kim et al 2011 [32]	SA	42 M	Left	Lt./Haz.Cont.	N	Yes SB- Right LB-Left	NR	Left	NR	N	NR
Kim et al 2011 [32]	SA	52 F	Right	Left IVC drain directly into right atrium	Midline	SMV anterior to SMA	NR	Right	NR	Sick sinus syndrome	NR
Jeong et al 2012 [33]	PSS	49 F	Left	Rt./Azy.Cont.	Midline	Yes SB- Right LB- Left	Yes	Left	Truncated	NR	NR
Mehta et al 2012 [34]	Interrupted IVC syndrome	50 F	Left	Rt./Azy.Cont.	N	Yes SB- Right LB- Left Caecum in midline	NR	Left	NR	N	N
Turkalj et al 2012 35]	PSS	45 F	Left	NR	Midline	Yes	Yes	Left	Truncated	NR	NR
Dilli et al 2012 [36]	HS	58 F	Left	Left IVC Retroaortic RRV.	Left dominant liver, Right GB	Yes SB- Left LB- Right	NR	Left	Ν	Dextro- cardia, right aortic arch	NR
Jo et al 2013 [16]	HS with isolated levocardia	19 M	Right	Lt.IVC drain into right atrium directly	Midline	Yes SB- Right LB-Left	NR	Right	Truncated	Isolated levocardia	Bilateral Bilobed lungs
Brahmbhatt et al. 2014 [37]	HS - PSS	77 M	Right	Interrupted IVC Left sided	Left sided	NR	NR	Right	NR	Double SVC Sick sinus	NR

Table 1: Summary of clinical and radiological findings of Polysplenia syndrome (PSS)/Heterotaxy syndrome (HS)/Situs ambiguous (SA) in adults (case reports)

N- Normal; NR- Anomaly Not reported; M- Male; F- Female; 11 females and 8 males

Azy.Cont- Azygos continuation of IVC; Haz.Cont.- Hemiazygos continuation of IVC; SMA- Superior mesenteric artery; SMV- Superior mesenteric vein; HA/CHA- common hepatic artery; LHA- Left hepatic artery; LGA- Left gastric artery; PDA- Patent ductus arteriosus; SB-Small bowel; LB- Large bowel; RRV- Right renal vein; RSA-Right subclavian artery; HS-Heterotaxy Syndrome; PSS- Polysplenia syndrome; SA-Situs ambiguous

Note: Only adult cases published after 2000 included in the table and the authors do not claim it to be a complete list of the cases.

Author & Year	Total No.	Sex	Spleen	Stomach	Liver	Intestinal	Preduodenal	Pancreas	IVC	Heart	Lungs
						Malrotation	portal vein				
Applegate et al 1999	10	F – 9	Right- 5	Right - 5	Midline- 5	Yes-3			Right-3	Apex, R-1	Bilobed -
[12] *	(Own series)	M - 1	Left - 5	Left- 3	Right – 4	unknown- 7			Left – 4	Apex –L- 9	3
			Multiple-4	Middle- 2	Left - 1				Azy.Cont8	Arch –R-4	Unknown-
			(R-2,L-2)	(R/M-1,						Arch- L - 6	7
			Single- 6	L/M-1)							
			(R-3,L-3)								
Gayer et al 1999	8	F- 5	Right- 6	Right- 6	Midline – 4	Yes– 5	Yes - 7	Short- 4	Right-1	Levo – 6	
[5] **	(Own series)	M- 3	Left - 2	Left - 2	Right – 1	Unknown- 2		Normal-3	Left – 7	Dextro- 2	
					Left - 3	Normal -1			Azy.Cont6		
	15 (Review	F- 7	Right- 7	Right- 8	Midline – 8	Yes-5	Yes – 7	Short- 7	Right-8	Levo – 11	
	of reported	M- 8	Left - 6	Left - 7	Right – 7	Unknown- 8	Unknown- 8	Normal-2	Left – 4	Unknown-4	
	cases)		Left-2			Normal -2		Unknown-6	Unknown 3		
			(Bizarre						Azy.Cont13		
			shaped)								
Fulcher & Turner,	8	F- 4	Right- 3	Right- 3	Midline – 5	Yes - 7		Short - 6	Right – 6	Levo – 7	
2002 [22]	(Own series)	M- 4	Left - 5	Left - 5	Right – 3				Left – 1	Dextro- 1	
			Multipl.7						Duplicate-1	Left arch –	
									Azy.Cont7	7	
										Aorta left	
										side-7	
Plata-Munoz et al.	23	F-12	Right- 14		Midline-11	Yes-10	Yes-14	Short- 10	Right-9		
2004 [23]	(Review of	M- 11	Left - 9			Unknown-11	Unknown-9	Normal-5	Left – 11		
	reported					Normal-2		Unknown-8	Unknown-3		
	cases)								Rt.Cont8		
									Lt.Cont 8		

Table 2: Summary of clinical and radiological findings of Polysplenia syndrome (PSS)/Heterotaxy syndrome (HS) / Situs ambiguous (SA) in adults (Case Series/ Review)

Total 64 cases, Females 37and Males 27.

*Applegate et al [12] reported the presence of a right sided stomach with single left sided spleen in one of his 10 patients.

** Gayer et al [5] reported the presence of a right sided stomach with left sided multiple spleens in one patient in his review of 15 published cases.

Aetiology	Exact cause not known. Congenital with multifactorial inheritance- autosomal dominant, autosomal								
	recessive and X-linked recessive.								
Incidence	variable; 1 per 250,000 live births [8]; 1 per 40000 live births [9]; 1 per 2700 in highly inbred community								
	of Asian Muslims. [11]								
Gender ratio	Females > Males								
Age predilection	Infancy. 50% patients die by 4 months of age and 75% before 5 years of age [18]; only about 5-10% reach								
	adulthood because of absence of severe cardiovascular anomalies[20].								
Risk factors	Unknown. Mutations in some genes were reported in some patients with heterotaxy syndrome.								
Treatment	Surgical correction ; management is mainly palliative in adult cases								
Prognosis	Poor (75% patients die before 5 years of age).								
Findings on	Clinically a heterogeneous disorder with a wide spectrum of anomalies.								
imaging	• bilateral bilobed lungs with hyparterial bronchi								
	• interrupted IVC with azygos/ hemiazygos continuation								
	• polysplenia								
	• midline liver								
	short truncated pancreas								
	• preduodenal portal vein								
	• gut malrotation								
	malrotation of stomach								
	• cardiovascular anomalies such as bilateral left atrial appendages; atrioventricular septal defects,								
	persistent left superior vena cava, partial anomalous pulmonary venous connection; hypoplastic								
	sinus node.								

Table 3: Summary table for heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome.

Disorder	X-ray	Echocardiography	USG	СТ	MRI
Heterotaxy (Situs ambiguous) Polysplenia (Left isomerism) Syndrome	 Cardiac apex-left/ right Aortic arch-left/right Dilated azygos vein Bilateral bilobed lungs Stomach –left / right 	 Cardiac apex- left / right Incomplete AV septal defect Normal relationship of great arteries Bilateral left atrial appendages 	 Multiple spleens- left/right Liver Right/Left/Midline Interrupted IVC Truncated pancreas Gut malrotation with SMV rotation sign 	 Cardiac apex-left/right Aortic arch- left/right Bilateral left atrial appendages Interrupted IVC with azygos /hemiazygos continuation Normal suprahepatic IVC Bilateral bilobed lungs Bilateral hyparterial bronchi Normal relationship of IVC and aorta in abdomen Multiple splenules Stomach- left/right Liver- right/left/midline Gut malrotation with SMV rotation sign Short truncated pancreas Preduodenal portal vein 	 Cardiac apex-left/right Aortic arch-left/right Bilateral left atrial appendages Interrupted IVC with azygos /hemiazygos continuation Normal suprahepatic IVC Bilateral hyparterial bronchi Normal relationship of IVC and aorta in abdomen Multiple splenules Stomach-left/right Liver-right/left/midline Gut malrotation with SMV rotation sign Short truncated pancreas Preduodenal portal vein
Heterotaxy (Situs ambiguous) Asplenia (Right isomerism) Syndrome	 Cardiac apex- Right/ Left/ Midline Aortic arch- right/left Bilateral trilobed lungs Stomach- right/left 	 Cardiac apex-right/left/midline Bilateral right atrial appendages ASD Common atrioventricular valve Transposition of great arteries Pulmonary stenosis/atresia Bilateral SVC TAPVC IVC & aorta on same side of spine 	 Absent spleen Stomach- midline/right/ left Symmetrical and midline liver midline gall bladder IVC and aorta on the same side of spine in abdomen Gut malrotation Truncated pancreas 	 Cardiac apex- right/left/midline Aortic arch- right/left Transposition of great arteries (TGA) Persistent left SVC Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Connection Pulmonary atresia/stenosis Bilateral eparterial bronchi Bilateral trilobed lungs Absent spleen Symmetrical and midline liver Midline gall bladder Right sided stomach Gut malrotation Truncated pancreas 	 Cardiac apex- right/left/midline Aortic arch- right/left Transposition of great arteries (TGA) Persistent left SVC Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Connection Pulmonary atresia/stenosis Bilateral eparterial bronchi Absent spleen Symmetrical and midline liver Midline gall bladder Right sided stomach Gut malrotation Truncated pancreas
Situs inversus totalis	 Cardiac apex- right (Dextrocardia) Right Aortic arch Bilobed right and trilobed left lung Dextrogastria 	 Cardiac apex-right (Dextrocardia) Right atrium and ventricle on left side Left atrium and ventricle on right side Corrected transposition of great arteries Left IVC and right sided aorta 	 Right side spleen Right sided stomach (Dextrogastria) Left sided liver and Left sided gall bladder Left IVC and right sided aorta 	 Cardiac apex-right (Dextrocardia) Right aortic arch Corrected transposition of great arteries Right sided aorta and left IVC Right hyparterial & left eparterial bronchus Bilobed right and trilobed left lung Right side spleen Left side liver Left side gall bladder Right side stomach 	 Cardiac apex-right (Dextrocardia) Right aortic arch Corrected transposition of great arteries Right sided aorta and left IVC Right hyparterial & left eparterial bronchus Right side spleen Left side liver Left side gall bladder Right side stomach

Table 4: Differential table for heterotaxy polysplenia (left isomerism) syndrome

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ABBREVIATIONS

AO/ AA: Aorta AV: Azygos vein ASD: Atrial septal defect CECT: Contrast enhanced computed tomography CHA/ HA: Common hepatic artery F:Female GB: Gall bladder HS: Heterotaxy syndrome IMA: Inferior mesenteric artery **IVP:** Intravenous pyelography LB: Large bowel LGA: Left gastric artery LHA: Left hepatic artery LRV: Left renal vein M: Male MR: Magnetic resonance N: Normal NR: Not reported PDPV: Preduodenal portal vein PUJ: Pelvi-ureteric junction PSS: Polysplenia syndrome RRA: Right renal artery SMA: Superior mesenteric artery SMV: Superior mesenteric vein SB: Small bowel ST: Stomach SP: Splenules SpA: Splenic artery SVC: Superior vena cava SA: Situs ambiguous TGA: Transposition of great arteries TAPVC: Total anomalous pulmonary venous connection USG: Ultrasonography

KEYWORDS

Heterotaxy syndrome; Polysplenia Syndrome; Situs ambiguous; Truncated pancreas; Interrupted inferior vena cava; Preduodenal portal vein; Intestinal malrotation

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