Heterotopic pancreatic tissue in gall bladder incidentally detected in a case of acute cholecystitis: A case report and review of the literature

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ABSTRACT

Heterotopic pancreatic tissue in the gall bladder is a very uncommon lesion. In most cases, it is an incidental finding. The placement of pancreatic tissue in an organ outside the pancreas is called pancreatic heterotopy. Heterotopic pancreas is commonly found in the stomach, small intestine, and Meckel’s diverticulum. It has rarely been seen in the gall bladder, bile duct, splenic hilum, or liver. We present a case of incidentally discovered heterotopic pancreatic tissue in a case of acute cholecystitis in a 63-years-old lady having a history of pain in the right hypochondriac region.

Key words: Cholecystitis, Gall bladder, Heterotopic pancreas

On examination, abdominal examination revealed mild tenderness in the right hypochondrium. Serum amylase level was 47 U/L and lipase was 69 U/L. The rest of the routine blood investigations were within normal limits.

Ultrasound imaging showed changes in calculous cholecystitis but no evidence of choledocholithiasis. Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography showed tiny calculi and sludge within the gall bladder.

The patient underwent an uneventful laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Intraoperative findings were consistent with cholecystitis (Fig. 1). The patient was discharged on post-operative day 2.

Macroscopic examination revealed a gall bladder measuring 7 × 2 × 1 cm. The external surface was unremarkable. Microscopic examination revealed acute cholecystitis with ectopic pancreatic tissue in the perimuscular adventitia. There was no evidence of malignancy (Fig. 2).

DISCUSSION

HP is the congenital presence of pancreatic tissue outside its normal location in the absence of vascular and anatomical connection with the main pancreas [1]. Different theories have been proposed to explain the origin of HP. The first theory states that HP is formed as a result of pancreatic tissue separation...
Heterotopic pancreatic tissue in the gall bladder is a rare pathologic condition that can present as acute cholecystitis. It also has to be considered as a differential in patients labeled as pain due to an unknown cause. Pre-operative diagnosis remains a challenge as of now and it can be diagnosed only on histopathological examination. The significance of the diagnosis of this condition remains unclear due to the limited number of cases being reported in the literature.

**CONCLUSION**

Heterotopic pancreatic tissue in the gall bladder is a rare pathologic condition that can present as acute cholecystitis. It also has to be considered as a differential in patients labeled as pain due to an unknown cause. Pre-operative diagnosis remains a challenge as of now and it can be diagnosed only on histopathological examination. The significance of the diagnosis of this condition remains unclear due to the limited number of cases being reported in the literature.

**REFERENCES**


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