

Cystic carcinoid tumor of the pancreas diagnosed by endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration of the cystic wall: an unusual presentation and diagnosis

Tumor carcinoide cístico de pâncreas diagnosticado por punção da parede do cisto guiada por ecoendoscopia: apresentação e diagnóstico incomuns

Rogério Colaiacovo¹, Ana Carolina Figueiredo de Castro¹, Ricardo Leite Ganc¹, Christina Shiang¹, Renée Zon Filippi¹, Ângelo Paulo Ferrari Junior¹

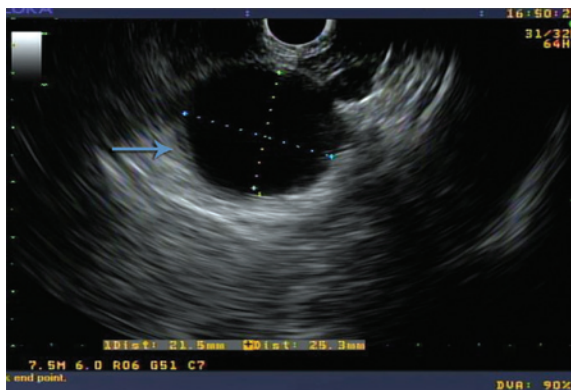


Figure 1. Neuroendocrine cyst

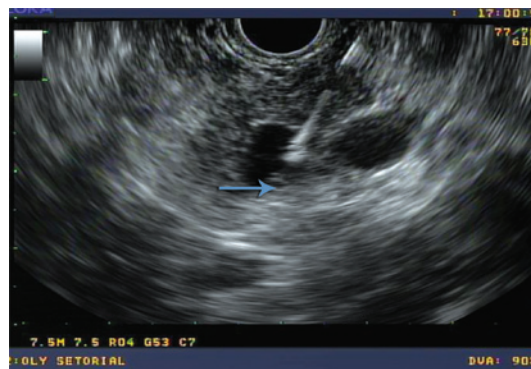


Figure 3. Endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration of the cyst wall



Figure 2. After fine needle aspiration

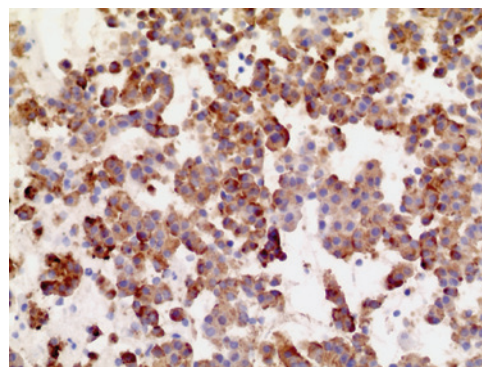


Figure 4. Cell-block of the pancreas shows numerous epithelial cells with rounded nucleus, "salt and pepper" chromatin and eosinophilic cytoplasm (Hematoxylin and eosin stain, 10x). Immunohistochemistry positive for neuroendocrine tumor

¹Department of Endoscopy, Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

Corresponding author: Ana Carolina Figueiredo de Castro – Rua Doutor Cesário Mota Júnior, 112 – Vila Buarque – Zip code: 01221-906 – São Paulo, SP, Brazil – Phone: (65 11) 2176-7000
E-mail: anacastro@gmail.com

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Cystic carcinoid tumors of the pancreas represent a subgroup of malignant potential and difficult diagnosis.^(1,2)

Endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration (EUS-FNA) is an effective tool to evaluate these lesions.⁽¹⁻⁴⁾

A 52-year old man was referred to the *Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein* to investigate a pancreatic cyst. Endoscopic ultrasound revealed a cystic lesion, measuring 2cm in the pancreatic tail, without septations and communication with the pancreatic duct (Figures 1 and 2). The FNA fluid showed normal amylase (67U/L) and low CEA (11,2ng/mL) levels.

Histological examination of fragments of the cystic wall obtained by FNA (Figure 3) revealed a carcinoid tumor, confirmed by chromogranin and synaptophysin immunohistochemistry analyses (Figure 4).

DISCUSSION

The preoperative diagnosis of cystic pancreatic carcinoid tumor is important due to their malignant potential and possibility of resection.⁽⁵⁾

Computed tomography (CT) and EUS may not help making diagnosis, since the radiological aspect is often

interpreted as a pancreatic mucinous cystadenoma, such as in this report.

EUS-FNA is a highly accurate method to diagnose pancreatic carcinoid tumors.⁽²⁻⁴⁾ The few studies available show a high agreement between cytology and pathology.⁽²⁻⁴⁾

In this report a rare lesion is described, and the diagnosis was possible only after the histological study of the cystic wall fragments obtained by EUS-FNA.

This case report shows the efficacy of EUS-FNA in an unusual diagnosis.

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