Mesopancreas: Myth or Reality?

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ABSTRACT

Context A recently published study hypothesized the concept of ‘mesopancreas’, defining it as a firm, well-vascularized structure extending from posterior surface of pancreatic head to behind the mesenteric vessels. Objective To verify and define mesopancreas from resection specimens obtained from fresh cadavers. Design Post mortem anatomical-pathological study. Setting Department of Surgery in conjunction with Department of Forensic Medicine, and Department of Pathology Government Medical College and Hospital, Jabalpur, MP, India. Participants 20 fresh cadavers of adults without any intra-abdominal injury, or gross intra-abdominal pathology. Interventions Specimen containing entire duodenum, pancreatic head and neck, gall bladder, cystic duct, common bile duct, superior mesenteric vessels, inferior vena cava and aorta was removed en-bloc. Gross and histopathological examination of specimen was performed. Main outcome measures To look for fibrous sheath or fascia around retropancreatic structure purported to be mesopancreas. Results Loose areolar tissue, adipose tissue, peripheral nerve, nerve plexus, lymphatic and capillaries were found in retropancreatic tissue, extending between head, neck and uncinate process of pancreas to up to aorto-caval groove; but no fibrous sheath or fascia was found around these structures. Conclusions Concept of ‘mesopancreas’ is anatomically unfounded.