A Tumor-Like Lesion Mimicking Mucinous (Colloid) Carcinoma in Heterotopic Pancreas of the Prepyloric Antrum: A Formidable Challenge for Frozen Examination

Zafer Teke¹, Neslihan Inci Zengin², Fuat Atalay¹, Kerem Karaman¹, Ali Eba Demirbag¹

Departments of ¹Gastroenterological Surgery and ²Pathology, Turkey Yuksek Ihtisas Teaching and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey

ABSTRACT

Context Heterotopic pancreas is defined as the presence of pancreatic tissue, outside its usual location, that lacks anatomical and vascular continuity with the pancreas proper. Despite the development of modern diagnostic procedures, it is still difficult to differentiate heterotopic pancreas from benign or malignant tumors and other tumor-like lesions. The frozen examination of mucinous lesions arising from heterotopic pancreas may represent a diagnostic problem. A decision may be very difficult, and sometimes, it is impossible to decide whether it is a benign or malignant lesion in frozen sections. Case report We report a tumor-like lesion mimicking mucinous (colloid) carcinoma arising in a heterotopic pancreatic tissue in the prepyloric antrum of 56-year-old woman found incidentally during an elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy for cholelithiasis. The tumor was treated by wedge resection, and in frozen section examination, there were pancreatic ducts in the proper muscle layer, pancreatic acini with islets of Langerhans under the serosal surface, and mucinous lakes close to the heterotopic pancreatic tissue and to a peripheral nerve. Conclusion The significance of this unusual lesion is its potential confusion with mucinous (colloid) carcinoma or other mucous tumors. Such confusion is more likely to occur if the tissue sample is selective or limited, and the presence of pancreatic tissue cannot be verified. Therefore, we believe that a choice of local excision, wedge resection, or more extensive eradication be determined only after intraoperative, pathological confirmation of the complete and accurate diagnosis.