

THE ROLE OF THE LAPAROSCOPIC APPROACH ON THE INCIDENTAL SECONDARY DIAGNOSIS ASSOCIATED WITH APPENDECTOMY - a clinical case

INTRODUCTION

Neuroendocrine tumors (NET) of the ileocecal appendix present with a nonspecific clinic, being mainly found in the anatomopathological examination of appendices operated due to acute appendicitis. Typically, Crohn's disease (CD) has an insidious onset and the diagnosis is made with a high index of suspicion. This clinical case illustrates the role of the laparoscopic approach (LA) on the incidental secondary diagnosis associated with appendectomy.

CLINICAL CASE

16-year-old male.

No medical or surgical history.

Emergency department:

Complaints of right iliac fossa pain with 48 hours of evolution associated with nausea. On clinical examination, tenderness on the right iliac fossa with distension and signs of diffuse peritoneal irritation.

-*Blood tests:* Increased inflammatory parameters.

-*Computed tomography:* "Pelvic area measuring 7.4 x 8.6 cm involving thickened ileal intestinal loops and associated intraperitoneal effusion.

Laparoscopic approach confirmed a plastron involving appendix, cecum and ileal segments (with diffuse distension and hyperemia) plus lateral parietal adhesions (Figure 1).

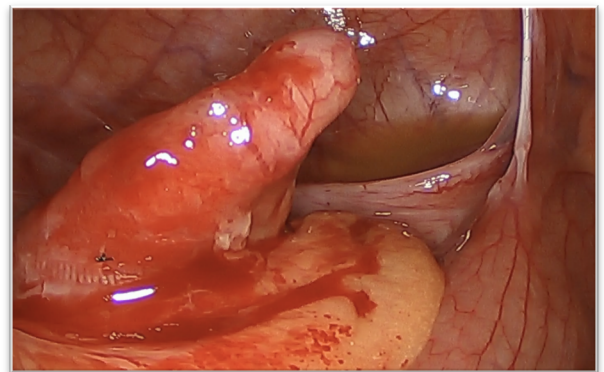


Figure 1

The patient was discharged with a postoperative diagnosis of acute appendicitis and a gastroenterology appointment due to the suspected CD that was posteriorly confirmed.

The anatomopathological examination of the ileocecal appendix identified a NET grade 1, pT3 Nx R0 according to the European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS) criteria.

DISCUSSION

NETs of the ileocecal appendix are relatively rare and the prognosis is generally favorable. Simple appendectomy is the routine surgical treatment and provides a cure in most cases. Although very rare, there is a known association between NET and CD.

The introduction of the LA in the treatment of complicated acute appendicitis/diffuse peritonitis has not received the same acceptance as in other acute conditions. Besides the better cosmetic results and shorter hospital stay, LA to suspected complicated acute appendicitis allows a wide view of the abdominal cavity, which allows not only a carefully and safe therapeutic approach, but also an excellent diagnostic approach, rising suspicion of other conditions.

REFERENCES

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