

Carcinoid tumour of the appendix: problems of diagnosis and treatment

C. Meșină¹, I. Vasile¹, I.D. Vîlcea¹, M. Pașalega¹, F. Calotă¹, D.S. Enache², T. Dumitrescu¹, C. Mirea¹, S. Mogoanta¹

¹Department of Surgery, 2nd Surgical Clinic, Emergency Hospital of Craiova, Romania

²Department of Anatomopathology, Emergency Hospital of Craiova, Romania

Abstract

Carcinoids (neuroendocrine tumours) are considered the most common primary appendiceal neoplasm. Primary appendiceal tumours are uncommon. Routine histopathological examination of appendectomy specimens is justified given the not infrequent incidental finding of appendiceal tumours. In cases of appendicitis in the elderly, the index of suspicion for epithelial tumours of the appendix should be raised. Moreover, once the diagnosis of an adenomatous lesion is made, colonoscopic examination of the entire large bowel is mandatory given the frequency of synchronous colorectal neoplasia in our population. In our study, we review 3 cases of carcinoid tumor of the appendix and describe their presentation, treatment and outcome. They are often diagnosed incidentally after histopathological examination of the vermiform appendix submitted in the course of the management of another clinical diagnosis. Appendectomy is appropriate for lesions < 1 cm but for lesions over 2 cm in diameter there is a significant increase in metastatic spread and thus right hemicolectomy is required in such cases. Appendiceal carcinoid tumours are found in 0,3 - 0,9 per cent of patients undergoing appendectomy. Controversy exists over the management following appendectomy, especially with regard to the role of right hemicolectomy in patients with tumours smaller than 2 cm in diameter.

Key words: appendiceal tumours, carcinoid, adenoma, appendicitis.

Corresponding author: Dr. Meșină Cristian

Department of Surgery, 2nd Surgical Clinic, Emergency Hospital of Craiova,
2 Tabaci street, 200378, Craiova, Romania

Tel. +4-0251-502344

E-mail: mesina.cristian@doctor.com