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## **Carcinosarcoma of the gallbladder diagnosed in a cholecystectomy specimen**

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*Dear Editor:*

We present the case of a patient with incidental diagnosis in cholecystectomy specimen of gallbladder adenocarcinoma with chondrosarcomatoid areas. Since it is associated with worse prognosis than the usual carcinoma, it is appropriate to know this entity to offer a better treatment to our patients.

A 79-year-old male patient came to the emergency department with abdominal pain of 1 week's evolution. An abdominal ultrasound showed a distended gallbladder with 8mm wall thickening, with bile and calculi inside. An abdominal CT scan was completed and showed hepatic collections and a renal cyst. With a presumptive diagnosis of complicated cholecystitis, emergency cholecystectomy was performed.

The macroscopic study of the specimen identified a polypoid tumor in the fundus, measuring 3.5 x 2 cm. Histological section showed an adenocarcinoma with moderately and poorly differentiated areas, with sarcomatoid transformation (Fig1) of the chondrosarcoma type.

After diagnosis, a new abdominal CT scan was performed, which showed multiple implants in adenopathy, liver and stomach.

After the intervention the patient progressively worsened and died after 4 months.

Carcinosarcoma or carcinoma with sarcomatoid differentiation of the gallbladder is an aggressive tumor of low incidence and worse prognosis than conventional

adenocarcinoma, with frequent early dissemination and premature recurrence<sup>1</sup>.

Histological study is essential for proper diagnosis, since clinical and imaging tests<sup>2</sup> do not show characteristic findings that allow the diagnosis of this entity.

Although the most common form is the presentation as spindle cell carcinosarcoma<sup>3</sup>, the mesenchymal component can show heterologous differentiation<sup>4</sup> as bone, muscle or cartilage.

In localized tumors surgery can be curative, although most patients debut in advanced stages. The role of chemotherapy and radiotherapy is not yet defined<sup>5</sup>.

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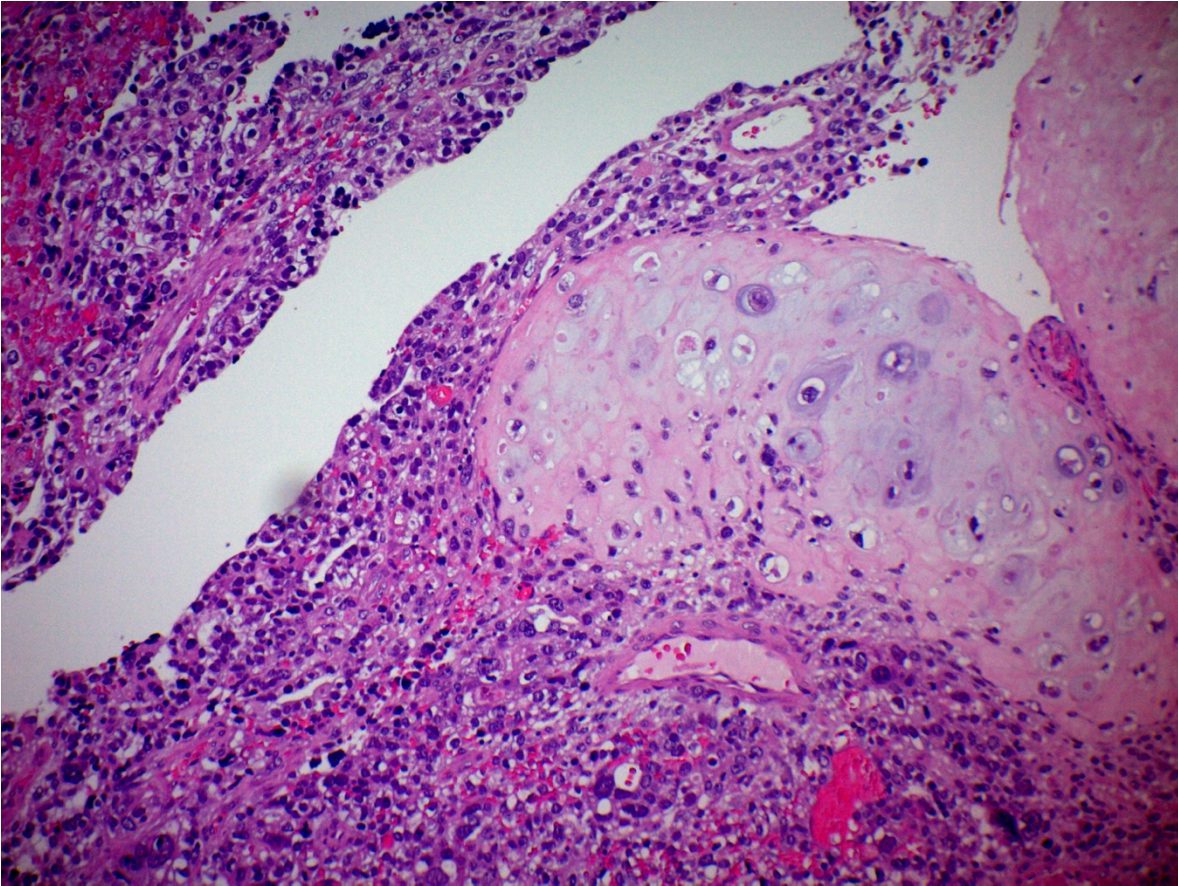


Fig1) Tumor focus showing sarcomatoid differentiation, with pleomorphic cells arranged on chondroid matrix.