

Title:

Pancreatic lipoma: diagnostic boom of a rare mesenchymal tumor

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Pancreatic lipoma: diagnostic boom of rare mesenchymal tumor

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Dear Editor,

Following the incidental finding of a tumor in a 58-year-old female, diagnosed as pancreatic lipoma, histologically confirmed by fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) with endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), we made a review in our center between 2018 and 2020, with 14 cases diagnosed of pancreatic lipoma by computerized tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Discussion

Mesenchymal tumors, including pancreatic lipomas, are very rare and only account for 1-2% of all pancreatic neoplasms (1). Through the case series and case studies reported, it seems that there is a slight higher prevalence among women and of lipomas located in the pancreatic head (2).

The scientific literature of this pathology describes a low incidence, although it is likely that it is higher than previously thought. There may be a greater identification of this type of tumors thanks to the increasing use of medical imaging tests, their greater availability and the better image quality (3). Both CT and MRI have high sensitivity and specificity for the diagnosis of pancreatic lipomas. If there is a diagnostic doubt, obtaining a histological sample by EUS-FNAB is indicated as the technique of choice (4). Once the diagnosis is reached, the management of these tumors is generally conservative, based on radiological follow-up. Surgical treatment is performed only for symptomatic cases or in case there are suspicious findings in imaging tests and histological samples (3). The multidisciplinary committees of pancreatic tumors have been key to joint decision-making both in the diagnosis and management of pancreatic lipomas.

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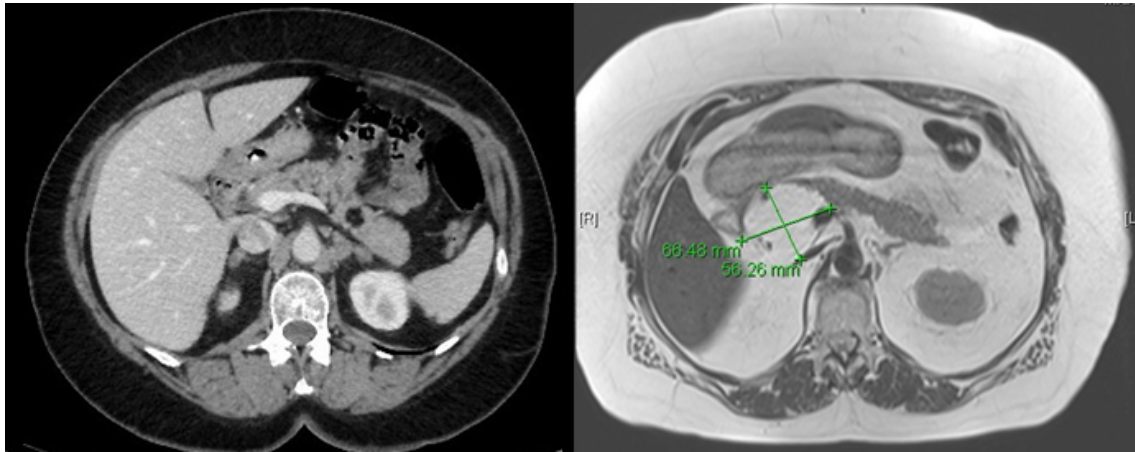


Figure 1. On the left, axial CT image of 54 year-old patient with incidental finding of 12x14 mm lesión in the pancreatic tail with characteristics compatible with pancreatic lipoma. On the right, axial image por the MRI in 60 year-old patient with incidental finding of 66x56 mm lesión in the pancreatic head with characteristics compatible with pancreatic lipoma.