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Prevalence and clinicopathological correlation of carcinoid in appendectomy specimens in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

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Background: Carcinoid tumors are rare but considered to be one of the commonest tumors in the appendix. Their incidence has been shown to vary in different studies.

Aims, Setting & Design: This seminal study was carried out to determine the incidence and clinico-pathological profile of appendiceal carcinoids in a cohort of patients undergoing emergency appendectomies for clinically suspected acute appendicitis in Emirate of Sharjah.

Materials and Methods: The study included the retrospective data of 964 patients operated for clinically suspected appendicitis, the resected specimens of whom were received in the Pathology laboratory of Al-Qasmi hospital Sharjah from January 2010 to December 2010.

Results: Out of the 964 patients 9 (0.93%) were found to have appendiceal carcinoids. The mean age was 28.7 years with a male to female ratio of 2:1. Eight tumors were located near the tip of appendix with mean diameter of 3.3 mm. All tumors were found to be positive for chromogranin A, synaptophysin and neuron-specific enolase on immunohistochemistry (IHC). None of the patient's had recurrence or any reportable complications in the short follow up period (12-26 months).

Conclusions: Our study found higher incidence of appendiceal carcinoids in patients undergoing emergency appendectomy for acute appendicitis in Emirate of Sharjah compared to two previous studies from the same geographical region. Moreover, tumors were found more commonly in young males in contrary to previous studies and all the tumors were positive for common neuroendocrine markers.

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