Case report

Mucinous adenocarcinoma arising from recurrent perianal fistula in patient with Crohn’s disease: case report∗

Suelene Suassuna Silvestre de Alencara,b,c,d,e, Romualdo da Silva Corrêa a,b,d,e, Cátia de França Bezerraa,f, Marcelo José Carlos Alencar a,d,g, Cristiana Soares Nunes a,d,g, Davi Aragão Alves da Costaa,d,f, Emanuela Simone Cunha de Menezesa,d,h, Antonio Luiz do Nascimentoa,d

a Hospital Universitário Onofre Lopes, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN), Natal, RN, Brazil
b Sociedade Brasileira de Coloproctologia, Brazil
c Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE), Recife, PE, Brazil
d Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Natal, RN, Brazil
e Universidade Federal de São Paulo (UNIFESP), São Paulo, SP, Brazil
f Liga Norte Riograndense Contra o Câncer, Natal, RN, Brazil
g Complexo Hospitalar Monsenhor Walfrido Gurgel, Natal, RN, Brazil
h Hospital Eduardo Menezes, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil

A R T I C L E   I N F O

Article history:
Received 11 April 2014
Accepted 15 May 2014
Available online 2 July 2014

Keywords:
Mucinous adenocarcinoma
Crohn’s disease
Anal fistula
Local recurrence of neoplasia
Colectomy

A B S T R A C T

Introduction: Anal carcinoma is a rare variant of epithelial tumors of the anal canal. When associated with chronic and active anal fistulas, usually this is an aggressive cancer that has difficult diagnosis and poor prognosis. Anal fistulas are a common manifestation of Crohn’s disease (CD). This study aims to report a case of mucinous adenocarcinoma originating from recurrent perianal fistula in patients with CD.

Case report: A man of 43 years, with melanoderma, complaining of perianal tumors, anal pain and mucopurulent secretion, the patient was diagnosed with fistulae. Colonoscopy revealed a chronic inflammatory process associated with villous polypoid lesion in the colonic and rectal mucosa. In a new episode, where it was diagnosed, chronic colitis and sigmoid was being prescribed sulfasalazine with improvement. There were relapses and the patient underwent repeated fistulectomies. After investigation, CD was diagnosed. Computed tomography (CT) of abdomen and pelvis showed multiple perineal and gluteal collections, and the patient underwent abdominoperineal resection of the rectum. Anatomopathological exam showed invasive mucinous adenocarcinoma. A new CT showed...
residual growth of the lesion. The patient was referred to the oncology referral service, where chemotherapy and radiotherapy were planned. The patient developed unfavorably, and his death occurred two months after treatment.

© 2014 Sociedade Brasileira de Coloproctologia. Published by Elsevier Editora Ltda.
Este é um artigo Open Access sob a licença de CC BY-NC-ND

Adenocarcinoma mucinoso surgindo de fistula perianal recidivante de paciente com doença de Crohn: relato de caso

Resumo: Carcinoma anal é uma rara variante de tumores epiteliais do canal anal. Quando associado a fistulas anais crônicas e ativas, geralmente é um câncer agressivo que possui difícil diagnóstico e mau prognóstico. Fistulas anais são uma manifestação comum da doença de Crohn (DC). Este estudo tem como objetivo relatar um caso de adenocarcinoma mucinoso originado de fistula perianal recidivante em paciente com DC.

Relato de caso: Homem de 43 anos, com melanoderma e queixas de tumorações na região perianal, dor anal e secreção mucopurulenta, sendo diagnosticada fistula. A coloscopia evidenciou processo inflamatório crônico associado à lesão polipóide vilosa em mucosa colônica e retal. Em um novo episódio, constatou-se colite crônica em reto e sigmoid, sendo prescrito sulfasalazina com melhora. Houve recidiva do quadro e o paciente foi submetido a repetidas fistulectomias. Após investigação, diagnosticou-se DC. A tomografia computadorizada (TC) de abdome e pelve demonstrou múltiplas coleções perineais e glúteas, tendo sido realizada ressecção abdominoperineal do reto. O exame anatomopatológico evidenciou adenocarcinoma mucinoso invasivo. Nova TC demonstrou crescimento da lesão residual. No serviço de referência oncológica, foram planejadas quimioterapia e radioterapia. O paciente evoluiu desfavoravelmente e veio a óbito após dois meses do tratamento.

© 2014 Sociedade Brasileira de Coloproctologia. Publicado por Elsevier Editora Ltda.
Este é um artigo Open Access sob a licença de CC BY-NC-ND

Introduction

Anal carcinoma is a rare variant of epithelial tumors of anal canal. Mucinous adenocarcinoma corresponds to 3–20% of all anal carcinomas. When associated with chronic and active anal fistulae, generally this is an aggressive cancer that has a very difficult and poor prognosis. Anal fistulae are a common manifestation of Crohn’s disease (CD), being present in 54% of cases. Their malignancy process was first described in 1974 by Lightdale and subsequently had its incidence demonstrated in 0.7% of patients with CD.

Here, we describe a case of mucinous adenocarcinoma originated from recurrent perianal fistula in a patient with CD.

Case report

43-Year-old man with melanoderma was admitted in May 2009 with complaints of perianal tumors for four months. Described episodes of anal pain and mucopurulence for about 11 years, with a diagnosis of fistula, not treated at that time. A colonoscopy was performed in May 2002, revealing a chronic inflammatory process associated with villos polypoid lesion with mild dysplasia in colonic and rectal mucosa. In a new episode, chronic colitis with an ongoing inflammatory process in the rectum and sigmoid was observed; sulfasalazine was prescribed. After an asymptomatic year, there was recurrence of symptoms and the patient underwent repeated fistulectomias. In 2006, after endoscopic and pathologic studies, the patient was diagnosed with Crohn’s disease. After 1 year, a treatment with ciprofloxacin and infliximab was started, with favorable evolution. In the following year, the condition worsened and the patient was referred and admitted to our service.

The patient reported weight loss of 23 kg (27%) since the beginning of the disease, tobacco use (7 packs/year; stopped smoking eight months ago) and alcohol consumption for 22 years. During physical examination, on palpation revealed pain in the right iliac fossa, presence of tumors in the perianal region (the largest with about 15 cm) with areas of mucopurulent discharge and a characteristic odor, associated with anal fistulas and vegetating, friable lesions (Fig. 1). A computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen and pelvis showed multiple perineal and gluteal collections (Fig. 2). The patient underwent abdominoperineal resection of the rectum and exenteration of soft parts, when an invasive pelvic injury with incomplete resection was verified. The pathologic analysis of the surgical specimen diagnosed invasive mucinous adenocarcinoma. A new CT in late postoperative period showed growth of residual injury and extensive soft tissue involvement of both gluteal regions, forming a large heterogeneous mass (Fig. 3) and liver metastases. The patient was referred to
Furthermore, however, clinical features, referral, and signs and symptoms of perianal condition, and endorectal ultrasoundography, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging are tests that can assess the extent of the disease. However, sometimes these methods are not very useful.

Biopsies of the fistulous tract and of the abscess are critical to an early diagnosis and treatment. At histopathological examination, this type of tumor contains cancerogenous cells that produce large amounts of extracellular mucin, with a mucinous component in more than 50% of the tumor volume, which characterizes the mucinous adenocarcinoma.

In general, mucinous adenocarcinomas have a reserved prognosis due to a late diagnosis in most cases, when the tumor was already at an advanced stage. Authors report a
good prognosis after abdominperineal amputation, probably due to the tendency of this tumor to be well differentiated, by its slow growth and the rarity of metastases to lymph nodes.\textsuperscript{11}

As for the therapy to be instituted, it has been accepted that the presence of dysplasia associated to the lesion or mass in patients with CD is an indication for colectomy, due to the increased risk of neoplasia. In general, there is a tendency toward more radical procedures when colorectal cancer is associated with Crohn’s disease.\textsuperscript{13} The role of radiotherapy in the treatment of perianal mucinous carcinoma is not established, because some authors hypothesize that the radiation can cause changes in the consistency of mucin, inducing tumor growth.\textsuperscript{11,14} However, it was mentioned that a strict follow-up associated with adjuvant chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy can prevent local recurrence.\textsuperscript{11}

Conclusion

This report highlights the difficulty in the management of patients with mucinous adenocarcinoma arising in anal fistula associated with Crohn’s disease, emphasizing the need for an early diagnosis for institution of an aggressive therapy, aimed at a more favorable prognosis.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES