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Small cell lung cancer with pancreatic metastasis diagnosed by EUS-FNA

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Introduction:

The most important sites of metastasis of lung cancer are left adrenal gland and liver. Therefore, important step on mediastinal EUS is the left hepatic lobe, celiac trunk and the left adrenal gland evaluation. Metastasis in the pancreas is rare, ranging in 3-12% in the autopsies. The authors report a case of small cell lung cancer with pancreatic and adrenal gland metastasis diagnosed by EUS –FNA.

Case Report:

A 59-year-old men presented with weight lost (20kg in seven months), dysphasia, aphasia and mental confusion. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) of the brain revealed several nodular lesions in the occipital lobe. Abdominal computed tomography (CT) showed a nodule in the left adrenal gland with 4.2 x 3.6cm. The chest CT revealed pulmonary nodules in right and left superior lobes and bilaterally paratraqueal lymph node enlargement. Fiberoptic bronchoscopy demonstrated an endobronchial lesion obstructing the right superior lobe. Biopsy was taken and histopathological examination confirmed small cell lung cancer. The patient was submitted to EUS that demonstrated an hypoechogenic lesion in left adrenal gland with 51 x 24 mm, and one in the body of the pancreas with 17mm. Fine needle aspiration of the two lesions was performed. The cytology confirmed the diagnostic of metastasis in the pancreas and the left adrenal gland.

Conclusion:

The pancreas is an uncommon location of metastatic lung cancer and usually concern patients at a advanced stage of disease. In this selected case, the EUS pancreatic study was important to diagnose this uncommon find.