



Tuberculosis of the pancreas.

Dietrich C.F.¹, Barreiros A.P.², Ignee A.¹

¹ Medical Department, Caritas-Krankenhaus, Bad Mergentheim, Germany

² Department of Internal Medicine I, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Mainz, Germany

Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) elastography is a recently introduced imaging procedure that distinguishes tissues due to their specific consistency. The aim of a recently published prospective study was to investigate the role of this new technique for characterisation and differentiation of normal pancreatic parenchyma and pancreatic tissues affected by various focal diseases [Endoscopy 2008; 40(11):910-917] but findings with tuberculosis of the pancreas have not been published so far. We describe elastography in 2 patients with tuberculosis of the pancreas.

In two patients in whom ductal adenocarcinoma was suspected by computed tomography, ultrasound-guided biopsy revealed the final diagnosis of tuberculosis of the head of the pancreas. Elastography (Hitachi, Japan, Pentax, Japan) displayed a heterogenous pattern with dominant blue signals throughout the entire organ (Hitachi, Japan).

Conclusion:

EUS elastography of the pancreas has the potential to achieve complementary information for improved tissue characterization which might be helpful for diagnosis of tuberculosis of the pancreas.