



Tissue real-time elastography in autoimmune pancreatitis.

Andre I.¹, Michaela O.², Dietrich C.F.¹

¹ Department of Internal Medicine II, Caritas Hospital, Bad Mergentheim, Germany

² Department of Pathology, Caritas Hospital, Bad Mergentheim; Germany

Introduction:

Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) elastography is a recent imaging procedure that distinguishes tissues due to their specific consistency and has been recently evaluated in patients with histologically proven pancreatic tumours. The aim of this prospective evaluation was to investigate the role of this new technique for characterisation of mass lesions caused by autoimmune pancreatitis.

Summary:

Prospective single centre evaluation enrolling 5 patients with mass lesions finally diagnosed as autoimmune pancreatitis. Elastographic recordings were compared to histology as gold standard in all 5 patients. Adequate and reproducible elastographic recordings of the pancreatic lesions could be obtained in all 5 patients with the final diagnosis of autoimmune pancreatitis. Patients with autoimmune pancreatitis presented with a characteristic stiff elastographic pattern not only of the mass lesion but also of the complementary pancreatic tissue which is unique and could not be found in patients with ductal adenocarcinoma and healthy subjects. Final diagnosis was achieved by transcutaneous biopsy in all patients. None of the patients with mass lesions and autoimmune pancreatitis have been operated.

Conclusions:

EUS elastography of the pancreas shows a typical and unique finding with homogenous stiffness of the whole organ discriminating this disease from the circumscribed mass lesions in ductal adenocarcinoma and other neoplasia. Knowledge of this finding helps to avoid unnecessary operations.