



25 Carcinoid Tumor Cases Incidentally Detected After 4642 Appendectomies

4642 Apendektomi Sonrası İnsidental Olarak Saptanan 25 Karsinoid Tümör Olgusu

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ABSTRACT

Aim: This study aimed to retrospectively investigate 25 cases of carcinoid tumors in 4642 pathological examinations of patients who admitted to our clinic with acute appendicitis in a period of 6 years.

Method: 4642 appendectomy operations performed in Şanlıurfa Training and Research Hospital and Mehmet Akif İnan Training and Research Hospital between 2012 and 2019 were evaluated retrospectively. Data regarding age, sex, preoperative clinical findings, histopathological results, operation reports, follow-up period, and metastasis status were extracted from electronic records and reported.

Results: Based on the histopathological examination of 4642 patients admitted to the emergency department of two large hospitals of Şanlıurfa province, 25 patients were diagnosed with carcinoid tumors (neuroendocrine tumor). Thirteen of our patients were male and 12 of them were female. The mean age of our patients was 33.2 years. The mean follow-up period was 5-62 months. No distant metastasis was detected in any of the follow-ups of our patients who had histopathologically well-differentiated carcinoid tumors.

Conclusion: Carcinoid tumors are the most common tumors of the appendix, which are detected incidentally after an acute appendicitis operation. Since these tumors are rare, histopathological evaluation and postoperative follow-up are important. Though, in our study, it is not common in terms of rate, it is still important to follow up these cases since it is common in the young population, and there is a possibility of metastasis in advanced stages.

Keywords: Carcinoid tumor, appendix, incidental

ÖZ

Amaç: Çalışmamızın amacı kliniğimize 6 yıl içerisinde akut apandisit tanısı ile başvuran ve opere edilen 4642 patolojik incelemede bulunan 25 karsinoid tümör olgusunun retrospektif olarak incelenmesidir.

Yöntem: 2012 ile 2019 yılları arasında Şanlıurfa Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi ve Mehmet Akif İnan Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi'nde yapılan 4642 apendektomi operasyonu retrospektif olarak değerlendirildi. Yaş, cinsiyet, ameliyat öncesi klinik bulgular, histopatolojik sonuçlar, operasyon raporları, izlem süresi ve metastaz durumu elektronik ortamda incelenerek rapor edildi.

Bulgular: Şanlıurfa ilimizin iki büyük hastanesinde arasında acil servise başvuran ve apandektomi yapılan 4642 hastanın histopatolojik incelemesinde 25 hastaya karsinoid tümör (nöroendokrin tümör) tanısı konuldu. Hastalarımızdan 13'ü erkek 12 tanesi de bayan idi. Hastalarımızın yaş ortalaması 33,2 idi. Hastalarımızı ortalama takip süremiz 5-62 aydı. Histopatolojik olarak hepsinde iyi diferensiyel karsinoid tümör rastlanan hastalarımızın takiplerinde hiçbirinde uzak metastaz tespit edilmemişti.

Sonuç: Karsinoid tümörler çoğunlukla akut apandisit operasyonu sonrasında insidental olarak saptanan ve apandiks en sık rastlanan tümörleridir. Bu tümörlerin az rastlanması nedeniyle histopatolojik değerlendirme ve operasyon sonrası takibi önem arz etmektedir. Bizim çalışmamızda oran olarak sık görülmesi bile genç popülasyonda sık görülmesi ve ileri evrelerde metastaz ihtimali nedeniyle bu olguların yakın takibi önemlidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Karsinoid tümör, apandiks, insidental



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Introduction

Appendiceal tumors are among the less common tumors and these lesions are usually incidentally noticed after appendectomy. The incidence rate varies between 0.9 and 1%.^{1,2} Carcinoid tumors, also called neuroendocrine tumors, account for more than 50% of appendix tumors. They are generally more common in children and young adults.^{3,4,5} They are usually located at the tip of the appendix and most of the appendix carcinoids are smaller than 1 cm and rarely more than 2 cm in diameter.⁶ Although they are not frequently encountered after appendectomy operations, considering the number of appendectomies performed, it is important to follow up these cases that every general surgeon may face. Characteristics of patients histopathologically diagnosed with appendiceal carcinoid tumors were evaluated.

Materials and Methods

25 cases of carcinoid tumors detected after 4642 appendectomy operations performed in two major clinics in Şanlıurfa, Şanlıurfa Training and Research Hospital and Mehmet Akif İnan Training and Research Hospital between 2012 and 2019 were reviewed. The research was conducted following the principles of “World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects”. Ethics committee approval was not received for this study because of its retrospective design. Informed consent was obtained from all patients. The age, sex, preoperative clinical findings, histopathological results, operation reports, follow-up period, and metastasis status of all cases were retrospectively analyzed thorough electronic records.

Statistical Analysis

Social Science Statistical Package (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) software was used for bio-statistical analysis. When data were presented as mean values, standard deviation values were given and when they were presented as mean values, minimum (min) -maximum (max) values were indicated.

Results

Thirteen of our patients were male and 12 were female. The mean age of our patients was 33.2 years (min-max=18-72). All of our patients were admitted to the emergency department for acute appendicitis and were operated for the diagnosis of acute appendicitis. As preoperative imaging examinations, 9 of our patients had ultrasonography (USG) and 10 had computed tomography (CT). 6 of our patients were operated with the preliminary diagnosis of acute appendicitis based on physical examination findings. The mean appendicitis

diameter of patients who had any imaging examinations was 9.4 mm (min-max=3-20 mm) (Table 1). All appendectomies performed in emergent setting. Symptoms such as diarrhea flushing in carcinoid syndrome were not apparent in our patients in the preoperative period. There were 2 patients with a tumor diameter greater than 20 mm and 8 patients with a tumor diameter of 10-20 mm, and 15 patients with a tumor diameter less than 10 mm. Two patients with a tumor diameter greater than 20 mm had undergone complementary right hemicolectomy, and tumor tissue was not found in the specimen examination afterward. Histopathologic examination revealed tumor localization in the distal appendix in 6 patients, proximal appendix in 18 patients; and in 1 patient multicentric mass was present in both distal and proximal appendix. No metastasis was detected in any of our patients. No complication was observed in the postoperative period during follow-up period of 42 months (min-max=5-62 months).

Discussion

Among the appendiceal malign tumors, carcinoid tumors are the most common.⁷ Apart from that, although rare, goblet cell carcinoma, lymphoma, mucocele, primary adenocarcinoma, and mucinous cystadenocarcinoma are also seen.^{8,9} In our study, the incidence of carcinoid tumors in patients with appendectomy was 0.53%. In the literature, rates on this subject range from 0.3% to 0.9% and are slightly more common in women.^{5,10} However, in our study, 13 of our patients were male and 12 were female. Appendiceal carcinoid tumor is most commonly detected between 38 and 49 years of age.¹¹ In our study, the mean age was 33.2 years and was lower than the literature. Appendiceal carcinoid tumors do not usually present with flushing and diarrhea-like symptoms which are signs of carcinoid syndrome. Carcinoid

Table 1. Clinical and demographic variables

Parameters	Cases (n, %)
Age, mean (SD)	33.3±17.5
Diameter/mm, mean (SD)	9.4±4.7
Follow-up/month, mean (SD)	49.90±24
Gender	
Male	13 (52%)
Female	12 (48%)
Tumor size	
<10 mm	8 (32%)
10-20 mm	15 (60%)
20>	2 (8%)

SD: Standard deviation

syndrome which occurs due to vasoactive amine release is usually seen due to liver metastases. Tumors presenting with an acute appendicitis-like condition are incidentally diagnosed in postoperative period based on histopathologic findings.¹² In our study, all of our patients were admitted to the emergency department with the diagnosis of acute appendicitis which is later confirmed histopathologically.

In our patients who presented with acute appendicitis in the preoperative period, no pathology other than appendicitis was suspected macroscopically in this period.¹³ In our study, the rate of appendiceal carcinoid tumors, most of which were smaller than 1 cm, was 56%. In the literature, this rate was reported as 80%. Tumors between 1 and 2 cm were 36% and tumors larger than 2 cm was 8%. In the literature, tumors of 1-2 cm were reported as 15% and tumors larger than 2 cm were reported as 5%. Metastasis in appendiceal carcinoids is usually seen in tumors over 2 cm, as a rare finding in.^{14,15,16,17} In the literature, rates up to 85% have been reported, but no patients with metastases were found in our study. Therefore, right hemicolectomy is recommended for the treatment of tumors larger than 2 cm due to the high probability of metastasis. Right hemicolectomy is recommended for treatment of cases with tumor size greater than 2 cm. In cases with tumor smaller than 1 cm, appendectomy is sufficient. Treatment in controversial cases with tumor size between 1 and 2 cm is under debate.

In such cases, including localized tumors at the base of the appendix, tumors with mucin production, tumors with high mitotic rate, childhood carcinoid tumors, serosa invasion, mesoappendix invasion, and lymphatic duct involvement, right hemicolectomy should be applied.^{16,18} While approximately 75% of appendiceal carcinoids are located proximal to the appendix, up to 10% are localized at the base. In our study, the tumor was at an apex in 17 (68%) patients and radix in 7 (28%) patients. One patient had a multicentric tumor at the base and proximal of the appendix (Table 2).

The rate of the synchronous or metachronous lesion was 13-33% in the follow-up examinations of diagnosed patients.^{13,16,17,19} This shows the importance of colonoscopy in patients with carcinoid tumors. In our study, none of our patients were detected to have colorectal cancer. Colonoscopy requirement was reported to our patients.

Table 2. Location of tumor in the appendix

	Male (n=4)	Female (n=4)
Localization		
Distal	4 (16%)	3 (12%)
Proximal	9 (36%)	8 (32%)
Distal + Proximal	0	1 (4%)

The efficacy of effective chemotherapy in cases with metastasis was reported as 40% and the efficacy of radiotherapy in selected cases was reported as 60%. The 5-year survival was reported as 81% in cases with local metastasis and as 31% in cases with distant metastasis.^{11,19,20}

Conclusion

In conclusion, appendiceal carcinoid tumors are usually incidentally detectable tumors.

Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: Ethics committee approval was not received for this study because of its retrospective design.

Informed Consent: Informed consent was obtained from all patients.

Peer-review: Externally peer reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: Y.Y., M.Ş., Concept: Y.Y., Design: Y.Y., Data Collection or Processing: Y.Y., M.Ş., Analysis or Interpretation: M.Ş., Literature Search: M.Ş., Writing: Y.Y., M.Ş.

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