

Endometriosis of the appendix: A Rare presentation of acute appendicitis

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INTRODUCTION

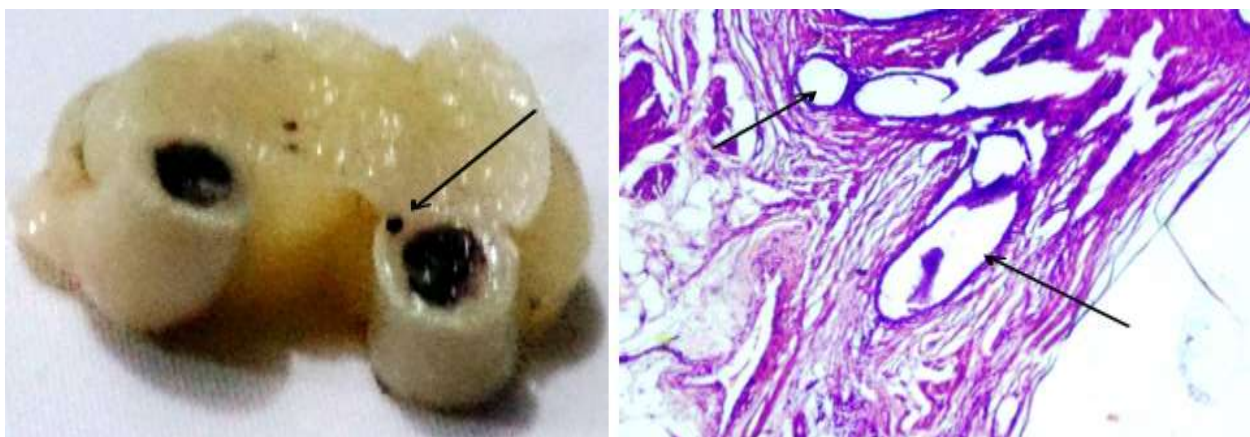
A well-recognized gynecological condition in the reproductive age group is endometriosis. Surgical texts present the gynecological aspects of the disease in detail, but the published literature on unexpected manifestation, is inadequate. The presentation to general surgeons may be atypical and pose diagnostic difficulty. Thus, a definitive diagnosis is likely to be established only by the histological examination of a specimen. Herein we report a case of appendiceal endometriosis clinically presenting with recurrent attacks of abdominal pain associated with secondary infertility which was diagnosed preoperatively as acute appendicitis.

CASE SUMMARY

A 30 year-old woman presented with a two-day history of lower quadrant abdominal pain with nausea. McBurney's point was positive with abdominal guarding and rigidity. Laboratory investigations revealed leucocytosis with neutrophilia, a normal urinalysis and a negative urine for pregnancy test. Acute appendicitis was diagnosed, and an appendectomy was performed. The respected appendix measured 6.5×0.6 cm at the widest diameter. Multiple dark brown small nodules were seen in the wall of the appendix. Microscopic examination revealed ectopic endometrial glands surrounded by endometrial stroma in the wall of the appendix. Diagnosis of appendiceal endometriosis was made.

DISCUSSION

Literature describes extragenital endometriosis in almost every organ and tissue in the body (1). Endometriosis of the appendix however, is very rare with an overall prevalence of 0.054% to 0.8% (2). Endometriosis of the appendix may present as appendicitis, mucocele of appendix, or appendicular mass that may mimic a neoplasm. (3). Many patients with appendiceal endometriosis may experience chronic pelvic pain and infertility. Our patient had a history of secondary infertility and post operative followup revealed pelvic endometriosis, that could be a cause of her infertility.



CONCLUSION

Appendiceal endometriosis though rare, should be included in the differential diagnosis in women of child bearing age complaining of acute abdominal pain especially with history of infertility. When detected, a gynecological assessment to determine the extent of endometriosis and postoperative follow-up is mandatory.

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