

Letter to Editor

Colloid carcinoma of the intestinal type in the uterine cervix

Sir,

Colloid carcinoma is a very rare variant of mucus-producing adenocarcinoma of the uterine cervix.^[1-3] Colloid carcinomas are mucinous adenocarcinomas with extensive extracellular mucin.^[2] Vaginal bleeding is a late symptom and due to the delay in diagnosis, prognosis is poor.^[2]

The patient was a 49-year-old postmenopausal woman who presented with vaginal bleeding since 3 months. On per vaginal examination, there was a circumferential ulceroinfiltrative growth in the uterine cervix, measuring about 4 cm. Cervical biopsy was suggestive of mucinous adenocarcinoma. Patient underwent total abdominal hysterectomy with bilateral salphingo-oophorectomy. Histopathological examination of the cervical growth revealed numerous mucous nodules, and low-columnar or cuboidal cells with intracytoplasmic mucus lined the margins of the mucous nodules or floated within them [Figure 1]. Patient received radiotherapy for 5 weeks and was then lost to follow-up after that.

Shintaku *et al.*,^[1] studied the immunohistochemical profile in a case of colloid carcinoma of cervix and found that the cytoplasm of neoplastic cells was immunoreactive for both cytokeratins 7 and 20, and the intracytoplasmic mucus was immunoreactive for MUC2, but negative for MUC5AC and MUC6. Nuclei of tumor cells were immunoreactive for CDX2. With these results of the immunohistochemical studies, they concluded that neoplastic cells produced mucus of the large intestine type, thus verifying the presence of a distinct subtype of colloid carcinoma of the cervix that shows the intestinal phenotype. These tumors must be distinguished from metastatic tumors from the gastrointestinal tract.

Apart from providing evidence of their endocervical origin, these tumors present special difficulties in diagnosis and treatment. Though colloid carcinoma is a histologically distinct and rare form of cervical adenocarcinoma, it is

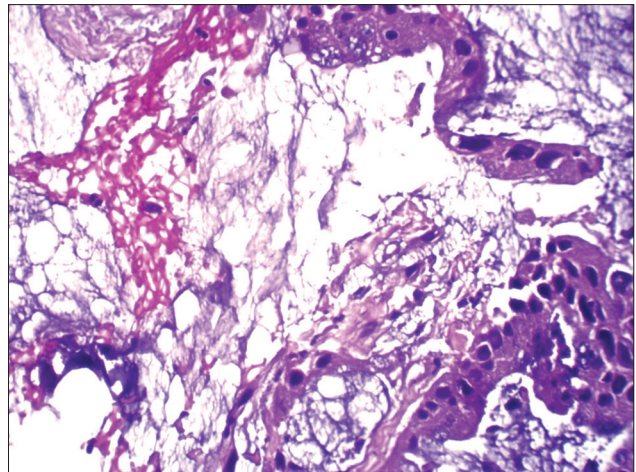


Figure 1: Photomicrograph showing cords and tumor cells floating in lakes of mucin (H and E, x40)

treated in a similar manner with chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy depending on the stage of the disease. Since very few cases of colloid carcinoma of the cervix have been reported in the literature, information regarding the prognosis is scarce.

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