HETEROTOPIC PANCREAS OF THE GALLBLADDER:
A REPORT OF TWO CASES

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Heterotopic pancreas in the gallbladder is an extremely rare entity, usually asymptomatic and diagnosed as an incidental finding following a cholecystectomy performed for other reasons.

We report two cases of gallbladder pancreatic heterotopia in middle aged women undergone surgery for gallstones.
The patients were a 54 and a 43 years old women, both with recurrent episodes of biliary colic in their clinical history.

In the first case, at gross examination, a yellowish nodule measuring 12 mm in largest diameter was noted in the adipose tissue outside of the gallbladder.

In the other case no significant finding was referred at visual inspection.
RESULTS

Microscopic examination of the first case revealed a circumscribed nodule of pancreatic tissue containing islets of Langerhans.
In the second case lobules of pancreatic acini and ducts measuring 4 mm in largest diameter were incidentally identified within the perivisceral fat.
In both cases, pancreatic tissue did not show any additional pathologic features, but associated acute and chronic cholecystitis was present.
DISCUSSION

Heterotopic pancreas is commonly found in the stomach, duodenum and proximal jejenum, but has been rarely seen in the gallbladder, bile ducts or liver.

These latter cases are usually observed in females between 40 and 50 years of age.
The majority of cases are asymptomatic, but this condition can be associated with bile duct obstruction, cholelithiasis, pancreatitis, hyperinsulinism, intussusception and gastrointestinal hemorrhage.

Acute or chronic cholecystitis due to the release of pancreatic enzymes is almost always present.
Heterotopic pancreatic tissue may harbor different pathologic changes, such as cysts, abscess, pancreatitis or calcification.

Pancreatic heterotopia of the gallbladder represents an extremely rare entity.

As microscopic foci are often detected only as an incidental microscopic finding, careful examination and wide sampling of the gallbladder are needed for detection.
REFERENCES


