Huge Mucinous Cystic Neoplasm of the Pancreas in a Young Diabetic Woman

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Picture 1. An abdominal mass compressed the intestine (left). A huge cystic mass with septum is observed at the pancreas tail (middle). The cystic mass also compressed the stomach (right). Pancreas body and tail are indistinguishable due to the huge cyst.

A 30-year-old woman who had been diagnosed as gestational diabetes during her first pregnancy at the age of 28, was referred to our hospital with the complaint of abdominal fullness. Abdominal radiograph, CT, and MRI findings revealed a huge cystic mass of the pancreas compressing other organs (Picture 1). Her height was 145 cm, BW was 70.5 kg, BMI was 33.5 kg/m², fasting blood glucose was 155 mg/dL, and HbA1c was 9.4%. Serum levels of immunoreactive insulin and glucagon before/30 minutes after infusion of 30 g of arginine were 4.72/21.1 μ U/mL and 32/

270 pg/mL respectively, indicating decreased insulin secretion without oversecretion of glucagon. Mucinous cystic neoplasm (MCN) was suspected and confirmed histologically. MCN develops with a predilection of pancreas tail in middle aged women. It is usually surgically excised due to its potential of developing malignancy (1). The diabetes of the present case seemed to be pancreatic diabetes. This case also suggests the importance of pancreas imaging at the first diagnosis of diabetes.

Reference

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