Case Report

Case Report on a Rare Intraoperative Finding of Ectopic Liver Tissue Attached to Gallbladder Wall during Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

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Introduction

Ectopic liver tissue is a rare occurrence [1, 2] in which liver tissue is placed outside the liver without any hepatic connection [3]. It is often discovered incidentally during laparoscopy, laparotomy, or during an autopsy [4]. Although rare, it has nonetheless been reported in several case reports [4–9]. Ectopic liver has been found above and below the diaphragm, but the gallbladder associated ectopic liver is the most common intra-abdominal location [10]. The reported sizes range from microscopic tissue to 3 cm [11]. The increased risk of hepatocellular carcinoma associated with ectopic liver tissue makes it an important anomaly that may pose a challenge to surgeons [8]. We present a case of ectopic liver tissue attached to gall bladder serosa that was discovered incidentally during an elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

2. Case Report

The patient was a 42-year-old female with a known case of asthma. She had recurrent episodes of upper abdominal pain referred to back and right shoulder which was associated with fatty meals. Ultrasound showed multiple gall stones. She was admitted for elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy on January 8th 2019.

Intraoperatively, there was a maroon-colored nodule attached to the anterior gall bladder wall as shown in Figure 1. En-bloc resection along with the gall bladder was done. Postoperatively, the patient stayed at the hospital for one day and was then discharged home. The resected specimen was sent to the histopathology department, and the report showed normal ectopic liver tissue. Conclusion. Due to the possibility of malignant transformation into hepatocellular carcinoma, en-bloc resection is the choice of management.

3. Discussion

The incidence for ectopic liver tissue is significantly low with a reported prevalence of 0.47% [12]. There are several theories which exist to explain the presence of ectopic liver [13]. However, it is largely believed to develop during the fourth week in utero during the embryonic development of the liver, which occurs as a result of the displacement
Ectopic liver tissue is a rare entity, usually diagnosed intraoperatively. The most common place for ectopic liver tissue is the gall bladder. The pathophysiology is still not clearly understood, and the management of choice is en-bloc resection due to the association of malignancy or ectopic liver tissue torsion.

### 4. Conclusion

Ectopic liver tissue is not normally found except in the gall bladder. It is usually diagnosed incidentally during imaging examinations or at surgery. The diagnosis is often made during a laparoscopic cholecystectomy or open cholecystectomy.

### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

### References


