

Tailgut cyst, an unusual cause of pseudomyxoma peritonei

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ABSTRACT

Background. Retrorectal hamartoma, also known as tailgut cyst, is a rare tumor that arises from remnants of the embryonic postanal gut. The tumor occurs in the retrorectal space and may undergo malignant degeneration.

Methods. The clinical information on a single patient with pseudomyxoma peritonei associated with a tailgut cyst was reviewed and a literature review of the subject performed.

Results. In this patient there was malignant degeneration of a tailgut cyst localized to the pelvis. Twenty months later a local recurrence in the pelvis and pseudomyxoma peritonei widely distributed in the abdomen were successfully treated by cytoreductive surgery and perioperative chemotherapy.

Conclusion. Tailgut cyst may, if resected with tumor spillage, result in pseudomyxoma peritonei. Our treatment – which has maintained a disease-free status for one year – was cytoreductive surgery plus perioperative chemotherapy.

Key words: retrorectal hamartoma, hamartoma, chemotherapy, mucinous adenocarcinoma, cytoreductive surgery, intraperitoneal chemotherapy, pseudomyxoma peritonei

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