

# Appendicular Metastasis From Carcinoma Cervix

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### Summary

A young lady who was treated for early squamous cell carcinoma of cervix presented with perforated appendicitis. Appendicectomy was done and the histopathology was reported as metastatic squamous cell carcinoma. Squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix metastasizing to the appendix is extremely rare and we previously unreported.

Key Words: Carcinoma cervix, Appendicular metastasis

### Introduction

Squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix is common and frequently metastasizes to different organs, especially in the advanced stages. It commonly metastasizes to the lymph nodes, liver, lung and bone. It has also been reported to metastasize to rarer sites such as spleen, skin, subcutaneous tissue, gastrointestinal tract and retroperitoneum<sup>1,2</sup>. We present a patient with cervical carcinoma metastasizing to the appendix.

### Case Report

A 43 year old Malay lady was treated with radiotherapy for stage IB squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix (Fig 1). Four months later, she was admitted for fever and abdominal pain. Examination revealed a toxic patient with generalized peritonitis and a temperature of 39°C. She was resuscitated with fluids and started on antibiotics. Laparotomy revealed a perforated appendix with generalized intra abdominal abscess. The sigmoid colon and terminal ileum were thickened and inflamed, which was attributed to radiotherapy. Appendicectomy and peritoneal lavage was performed and she was

discharged one week later. The histopathology of the appendix was reported as metastatic squamous cell carcinoma. (Fig 2)

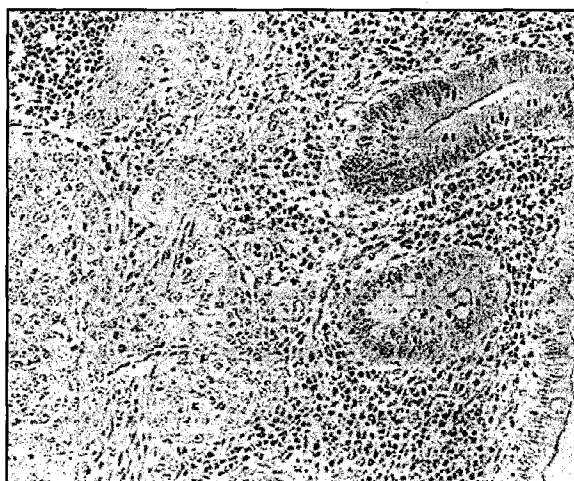
One month later, she was readmitted for intestinal obstruction. Examination revealed a tender, suprapubic mass. A CT scan confirmed bilateral hydronephrosis with hydroureter due to a large pelvic tumour with bowel involvement. There were numerous large para aortic lymph nodes as well. She was advised for relaparotomy but she refused and she died a few weeks later.

### Discussion

Metastatic disease to the appendix is extremely rare. The primary cancers which have been reported to metastasize to the appendix are colorectal and epithelial ovarian cancers<sup>1</sup>. Squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix metastasizes mainly by lymphatics to pelvic, inguinal, para aortic and supraclavicular lymph nodes. It directly invades paracervical tissue, vagina, endometrium, bladder and rectum. Haematogenous spread is unusual in early stages and it goes to the lung, kidneys, skeleton



**Fig 1. Histology of the cervical carcinoma**



**Fig 2. Histology of the appendix with metastasis**

and liver. Gastrointestinal obstruction seen in some of these patients are due to enlarged lymph nodes obstructing the gastrointestinal tract<sup>2</sup>. Patients with metastases indicate advance disease. Most of them do not respond well to treatment and their survival time is short, most being not more than a few months. Chemotherapy and radiotherapy have not been proven to prolong survival<sup>2,3</sup>.

In this patient, though she was staged as carcinoma cervix IB, she most probably was in a more advanced stage. Metastatic emboli may not be detected in many

patients and this may be the cause for this patient to deteriorate so quickly. In summary, appendicular metastases indicate advance disease and has a grave prognosis. Treatment options are limited and does not prolong survival. In our literature search, we were unable to find any similar reports of appendicular metastases from squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix, presenting as appendicitis.

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#### **References**

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