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Goblet Cell Carcinoid of the Appendix: Case report of a high grade tumor in a 20-year-old

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Highlights

- Goblet cell carcinoid (GCC) is a rare appendiceal tumor of the appendix
- Our patient is the youngest reported case of GCC, at 20 years old
- Patient presented with appendicitis and was diagnosed post-operatively
- Neoplasm must be kept in mind when offering non-operative care for appendicitis

Abstract

INTRODUCTION: Goblet cell carcinoid (GCC) is an extraordinarily rare appendiceal tumor that is usually an incidental diagnosis on post-operative histology. It typically presents in the fifth or sixth decade of life. Our patient is the only reported case study of GCC in a pediatric-young adult. Due to its potentially poor prognosis, GCC is surgically treated as an adenocarcinoma, with right hemicolectomy as the mainstay of treatment.

PRESENTATION OF CASE: The patient was a 20-year-old male who presented with a history, physical exam, and work up consistent with acute appendicitis. He underwent an uneventful laparoscopic appendectomy and was diagnosed with a high grade GCC post-operatively.

DISCUSSION: GCC is a rare tumor of the appendix with unique histological features including small rosettes with crescentic nuclei distended with mucin. It is often retroactively diagnosed with histology after a majority of patients present with acute appendicitis symptoms. The behavior of this tumor in pediatric-young adults is very poorly understood.

CONCLUSION: We review the literature for GCC of the appendix and illustrate a case report of a young, otherwise healthy 20-year-old who presented as appendicitis. Although rare, neoplasm must be kept in mind while offering non-operative management for acute appendicitis.