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## Mucocele of appendix - A rare pathology in a common surgical condition

**Ravi Shankar JC, Priyanka, Abhishek Kumar**

### Abstract

A 70 year old gentleman presented with a history of vague right lower abdomen pain since 6 months. Ultrasonography showed a tubular cystic lesion in right iliac fossa. Computed tomography revealed a well-defined non enhancing lesion in right iliac fossa posterior to ileocecal junction probably mucocele or pyoappendix. Open appendectomy was performed. Cystic lesion turned out to be mucocele of appendix containing thick mucus. Histopathology revealed mucosal hyperplasia with no evidence of malignant cells.

**Keywords:** Mucocele, Appendectomy, Right Hemicolectomy, Pseudomyxoma Peritonei

### 1. Introduction

A mucocele of appendix is the result of obstruction of appendiceal orifice with distension of appendix caused by accumulation of mucoid material <sup>[1]</sup>. incidence is 0.2-0.3% in appendectomies reviewed <sup>[2]</sup>. Histologically mucoceles can be divided into mucosal hyperplasia, mucinous cystadenoma and mucinous cystadenocarcinoma <sup>[3]</sup>. Surgery is the treatment of choice.

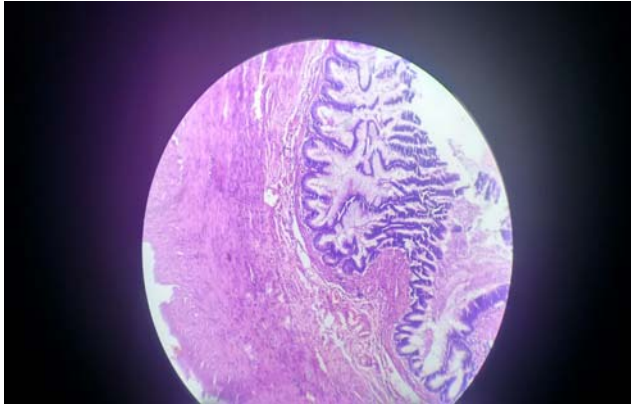
#### 1.1 The Case

A 70 year old gentleman presented with a history of vague right lower abdomen pain since 6 months. He had no other symptoms or comorbidities. Clinical examination was insignificant. Ultrasonological evaluation showed a tubular cystic lesion in right iliac fossa. CT scan revealed a well-defined hypodense non enhancing lesion of size 4\*5\*1.8 cms in right iliac fossa posterior to ileocecal junction. Appendix was not separately made out. Rest of the abdomen was normal. Mucocele or pyoappendix was suspected.

On exploration, a cystic lesion of size 4\*5 cm was noted in the appendix. The base and tip of appendix was not involved (figure 1). Careful dissection followed by appendectomy was performed. Histopathological examination revealed a mucus containing cyst with mucosal hyperplasia (figure 2).



**Fig 1:** Intra Op Picture Showing Mucocele of Appendi



**Fig 2:** Histopathology Picture Showing Mucosal Hyperplasia

## 2. Discussion

Mucocele of appendix is a rare entity. Pre-operative diagnosis aids in the planning of a careful mobilisation and resection to prevent peritoneal contamination [4]. Peritoneal contamination may result in the dreaded complication, pseudomyxoma peritonei. Right hemicolectomy is performed if a malignant cause is suspected. Laparoscopic resection is possible if necessary precautions are taken [5]. Few cases of mucocele of appendiceal stump, following appendectomy have also been reported [6, 7, 8].

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