TECHNICALLY CHALLENGING LAPAROSCOPIC APPROACH TO PARAGANGLIOMA

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Abstract body (should contain maximum 300 words)
INTRODUCTION Sympathetic paraganglioma (PGL) are rare functional neuroendocrine tumors, mostly located in abdomen. Clinical presentation is variable. Diagnosis is made by biochemical tests followed by radiologic evaluation to locate tumors and screen for synchronous or metastatic disease. High levels of methoxytryramine, a marker of malignancy, can be seen in up to 70% of succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) mutations. 40% to 60% carry a germ line mutation, so genetic screening is advised for all patients, allowing an early diagnosis, proper follow-up and treatment. PURPOSE Although suspicion of malignancy, the advance in technology allowed surgical skills to improve to its outmost. Laparoscopy is nowadays a safe way to treat PGL.

METHOD The authors present a video of a technically challenging transperitoneal laparoscopic approach to a 65x48mm PGL located cefalic to left renal vein and external to mesenteric artery and 4th portion of duodenum. RESULTS In our 46 year-old patient, methoxytryramine was high and CT scan showed tumor in an anatomically complex location. 68-Ga-DOTANOC-PET excluded metastatic disease. Pathology demonstrated a PLG, chromogranin+, synaptophysin+, CK8/18-, S100+ with areas of cytologic atypia and vascular invasion. Genetic study was positive for SDHB. CONCLUSION Although radiometabolic treatment and molecular therapies are climbing steps in modern era, these are reserved for symptomatic, unresectable and progressive illness. In spite of suspicion of malignancy, surgery is the treatment of choice, due to its potentially definitive cure. According to literature open approach is still the most commonly used. With advance in technology, laparoscopy is nowadays a safe way to treat PGL.