Qeios

Peer Review

Review of: "Colorectal Cancer on the Rise in Children and Young Adults: A Series of Three Cases and Its Implications for Early Detection"

Tomoyuki Otani¹

1. Kinki University, Japan

The manuscript describes three pediatric surgical cases of colorectal mucinous adenocarcinoma: a 16year-old male with metastatic rectal cancer, a 16-year-old female with rectal cancer, and a 17-year-old female with sigmoid colon cancer without recurrence at the last follow-up.

Minor Comments

1. Case Presentation. Some of the case descriptions feel incomplete. Cases 1 and 2 do not clearly state the patient outcomes at the time of the last follow-up. Please consider adding this information for consistency and clarity.

2. Case Presentation, Case 1: "anterior cutaneous line". This term is unfamiliar to this reviewer and may be a misnomer or require clarification. Please consider rephrasing or explaining this term.

3. Figures. Figures 1, 3, 4, and 6 are not cited in the text. Please review the manuscript to ensure that all figures are appropriately referenced. Also, consider checking the placement of figures: for example, Figure 2, which pertains to Case 3, is placed between Cases 1 and 2, which may confuse readers.

4. Discussion: "certain genetic disorders increase the risk of developing colorectal carcinoma, as seen in Case 3". The case presentation mentions a family history of thyroid cancer in Case 3, but does not explicitly mention genetic disorders. Please clarify or revise this sentence.

5. Discussion: "The presentation varies by tumor location; cecum and descending colon tumors may be bulky before symptoms arise". The cecum and descending colon are not adjacent, and grouping them together may need further justification.

6. Discussion: "over half of the reported cases of colorectal cancer in children are poorly differentiated

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adenocarcinomas, many of which are of the signet ring cell type.", "over 50% of pediatric cases are mucinous". Please clarify whether these statements are consistent, or revise to prevent confusion.

7. Conclusion. According to the Abstract, the main conclusion of this manuscript seems to be "Since symptoms are nonspecific in children, it can lead to a delay in diagnosis, and poor prognosis is linked with this delay" (please correct if this is a misinterpretation). However, this reviewer feels that the case presentations do not clearly support or emphasize this point.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.