

Letter to the Editor

Total Colectomy for Metachronous Colorectal Tumors

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About 15% of colorectal tumors admit to hospital with colonic obstruction [1]. In cases with left colonic obstruction there is still no consensus on the ideal treatment modality. In the recent literature, one step operations are favored, because of increased cumulative morbidity and mortality in multiple operations [2-4].

Here, I want to present a 68 years old patient with colonic obstruction due to a rectal tumor. Patient had been operated for a right sided colon tumor ten years ago. Previous tumor was reported as stage 1 adenocarcinoma with no lymphatic involvement and no distant metastasis. At the control colonoscopy 3 years after surgery, there had been no pathological finding. At the current admittance patient had a rectal tumor involving the dentate line and colonoscopic evaluation was impossible. Abdominal imaging revealed no distant metastasis and there were 5 involved perirectal lymph nodes. The patient has been informed about abdominoperineal resection and accepted the operation. Then the patient underwent abdominoperineal resection with total resection of the remaining colon and terminal ileostomy. Evaluation of the pathological specimen revealed T3N2 rectal adenocarcinoma and about 100 adenomatous polyps.

Incidence metachronous colorectal cancers reported as 2-2.4% [5,6]. Treatment of the metachronous tumors is similar to the primary ones. However, incidence of colon polyps with colorectal cancers is about 25% [5]. In the recent case it was impossible to perform a colonoscopy.

For the obstructive left colon tumors, resection of the involved colonic segment and primary anastomosis can be a treatment choice. There are studies reporting no difference between segmentary resection and total/subtotal colectomy for such lesions. However, in such a case with metachronous colorectal carcinoma with no information about the proximal colon, total colectomy should be chosen.

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