

Malignant neoplasm of the sigmoid colon found accidentally during a routine gynecological examination

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Figure 1. Transvaginal ultrasound, echopositive structure behind the uterus



Figure 2. CT of the abdominal cavity of the pelvis without contrast, segmental thickening of the sigmoid colon

The patient underwent a routine gynecological examination with cytology every year. During 1 appointment, the gynecologist noticed and described a well-defined structure with a positive echo behind the uterus, measuring 22x24 mm in the transvaginal ultrasound (fig. 1). This structure aroused the oncological vigilance of the gynecologist performing the examination. Further diagnostics were recommended, during which a colonoscopy was performed, which revealed a tumor clamping the lumen of the sigmoid colon. In the next stage, a CT scan of the abdominal cavity and pelvis, without any contrasting agent, was performed (fig. 2). The examination revealed a thickening of the colon wall at the level of the initial segment of the sigmoid colon. The patient was qualified for surgical resection of the sigmoid colon. Histopathological examination of the excised tumor confirmed the diagnosis of pT3N1aM0 sigmoid adenocarcinoma. The patient underwent a cycle of adjuvant chemotherapy. This case shows that regardless of the medical specialty, attention should be paid

to changes in other organs, including those that are not directly examined. Most colorectal cancers are diagnosed in older patients, over 70 years of age [1]. This patient was in her 50s at diagnosis, so it can be concluded that one should be vigilant for cancer, even if the patient is not directly in the high-risk age group. In this patient, the tumor was asymptomatic and accidental detection enabled the implementation of treatment that led to remission. If the gynecologist had ignored the lesion revealed in the transvaginal ultrasound, most likely the tumor would have been detected at the inoperable stage and, subsequently, only palliative treatment would be possible. In the available literature, one can find information that the only early detection of the disease presents an opportunity for remission [2].

References

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