

Diarrhea Associated with Retroperitoneal Tumor

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Introduction

A 48-year-old male presented to the surgical outpatient department with complaints of copious, odorless, watery diarrhea for one year associated with abdominal pain, anorexia, and weight loss for 3 months. On examination, the patient was dehydrated; his pulse was 94 per minute and blood pressure was 100/64 mmHg. He was not icteric clinically. There was no palpable abdominal lump or any other significant findings. His laboratory investigations revealed hemoglobin of 9 gm/dL, fasting blood sugar of 5.1 mmol/L and post prandial 5.9 mmol/L, urea 6.4 mmol/L, serum Na 142 mmol/L, potassium 2.8 mmol/L, bilirubin 7 μ mol/L with normal liver enzymes. Abdominal sonography showed a solid pancreatic mass arising from body and tail. Contrast-enhanced CT depicted a large pancreatic solid tumor 8 \times 6 cm in size arising from body and tail of the pancreas (Fig. 1), with no dilatation of intra or extrahepatic biliary tree.



Figure 1: Abdominal sonography

Questions

1. What is the presumptive diagnosis?
2. What is the pathophysiology of diarrhea in these patients?

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