THE PHANTOM OF THE PANCREAS: A CASE REPORT ON PANCREATIC TUBERCULOSIS MIMICKING PANCREATIC CARCINOMA

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A case report describes a 53-year-old male with pancreatic tuberculosis mimicking pancreatic carcinoma, illustrating the diagnostic challenge and successful conservative management with anti-tuberculous therapy.

KEY POINTS

- Pancreatic tuberculosis is rare (incidence less than 4.7% in autopsy series) with vague symptoms and radiologic features that can mimic pancreatic carcinoma
- The patient presented with a ten-week history of abdominal pain, fever, and weight loss, with imaging showing a pancreatic head and body mass causing ductal dilatation and duodenal narrowing
- Biopsy of left cervical lymphadenopathy revealed chronic granulomatous inflammation compatible with tuberculous etiology, and RT-PCR was positive
- Exploratory laparotomy with frozen section confirmed chronic granulomatous inflammation, leading to gastrojejunostomy and cholecystojejunostomy instead of pancreatic resection
- Six months of anti-tuberculous medication resulted in complete resolution of the pancreatic mass on repeat MRCP, supporting the authors' conclusion that early diagnosis and conservative management can avoid unwarranted surgery and associated morbidity

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