A 24-year-old man, who was an active smoker (20 cigarettes per day) since the age of 7 years and had a history of chronic alcohol abuse, was referred to our hospital because of recurrent mild-severe abdominal pain localized in the upper quadrants and sometimes radiating to the back. In 2012 he was hospitalized for an episode of alcoholic mild-acute pancreatitis. He then stopped drinking alcohol for 3 years, with clinical and nutritional benefits. In 2015 he began abusing alcohol again, and the abdominal pain recurred together, with progressive weight loss.

Because of the persistence of symptoms, biochemical blood tests were performed and showed a mild increase in gamma-glutamyl transferase (2 × the upper limit of normal [ULN]), amylase/lipase (2.5/1.5 × ULN), and carbohydrate antigen 19–9 (2 × ULN). A computed tomography scan showed the presence of a hypodense area between the head of the pancreas and the duodenal wall, which contained some cysts associated with millimetric calcifications (Fig. 1). A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan confirmed an isointense area containing small multiple cysts (Fig. 2). To better clarify the nature of these findings, we performed an endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), which showed an inhomogeneous area between the head of the pancreas, the duodenal wall (arrows) next to the head of the pancreas (HP), which presents regular echogenicity. Small calcification (arrow) next to one of the cysts (Fig. 3).

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AZ_2AL

[1] EUS is now considered an important tool, together with MRI, for a diagnosis of groove pancreatitis [3–5]. However, EUS morphologic features of groove pancreatitis have not been extensively reported to date.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AZ_2AL
Competing interests
None

The authors

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DOI https://doi.org/10.1055/a-0889-7569
Published online: 2.5.2019
Endoscopy 2019; 51: E235–E236
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

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