Neuroendocrine tumor of unknown primary

Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Neuroendocrine tumors are a heterogeneous group of tumors that are formed in cells capable to produce hormones in the blood which act as a result of a signal from the nervous system. Such tumors may produce more hormones than usual which causes different symptoms. They can develop in any organ of the body although its presentation in the digestive tract, pancreas and is more frequent bronchopulmonary tract.

Approximately 65% belong to the digestive tract, 25% to the bronchial pulmonary tract and 10% are considered as others. There is a diversity of clinical characteristics, which is associated with a low incidence, it is estimated at 6.98 new cases per 100,000 habitants, this makes them difficult to diagnose since in many cases the symptoms are either specific or found by chance, but in more than half of the cases the diagnosis is late when the disease is already advanced, so interdisciplinary management is necessary. It is estimated the approximately more than 12,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumors each year, 175,000 people are living with this disease. In Spain, 3,220 new cases are diagnosed each year and 17,000 patients are affected. KEY WORDS: Neuroendocrine tumors; fine needle biopsy; immnunohistochemistry; nuclear magnetic resonance; computed tomography of the thorax, abdomen and pelvis.