

# Rare Association Of Goblet Celladenocarcinoma Appendix With Low Gradeappendicealmucinousneoplasm:A case report

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## ABSTRACT

Goblet cell adenocarcinoma is a rare malignant tumour of the appendix often masquerading as appendicitis. Although it is described as an amphicrine tumour composed of goblet-like mucinous cells and variable number of endocrine cells and Paneth cells, various theories exist regarding the histogenesis of this tumour [1]. Occurrence of goblet cell adenocarcinoma with associated mucinous appendiceal neoplasms is very rare. We report one such case of a 64 years old man who presented to our hospital.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Goblet cell adenocarcinoma is an uncommon malignant neoplasm of the appendix which often mimics appendicitis clinically. Currently, it is described as an amphicrine tumour composed of goblet-like mucinous cells and variable number of endocrine cells and Paneth cells. The histogenesis of this neoplasm is questionable as there has been some cases of goblet cell adenocarcinoma occurring in association with other benign mucinous neoplasms of appendix. To our knowledge, there are 6 reported cases of goblet cell adenocarcinoma with associated appendiceal mucinous neoplasms. We report one such case of a 64 years old man who presented to our hospital.

## II. CASE REPORT

A 64 year old male patient presented to our hospital with the complaint of right sided pain abdomen since 6 months. No other presenting illness. He had a past history of acute appendicitis for which conservative management was done.

On per-abdomen examination, there was not tenderness or organomegaly. His USG abdomen and plain and contrast enhanced CT scan were suggestive of acute appendicitis (Fig. 1a).

Appendectomy was done.

We received his appendix which measured 6 cm length and 2 cm maximum diameter. Surface was congested. Cut sections showed thickened mucosa and a mucinous appearance involving the entire cut section.

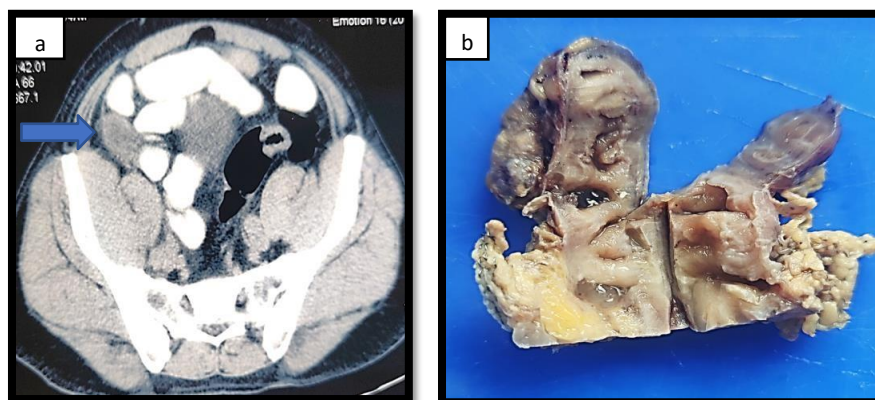


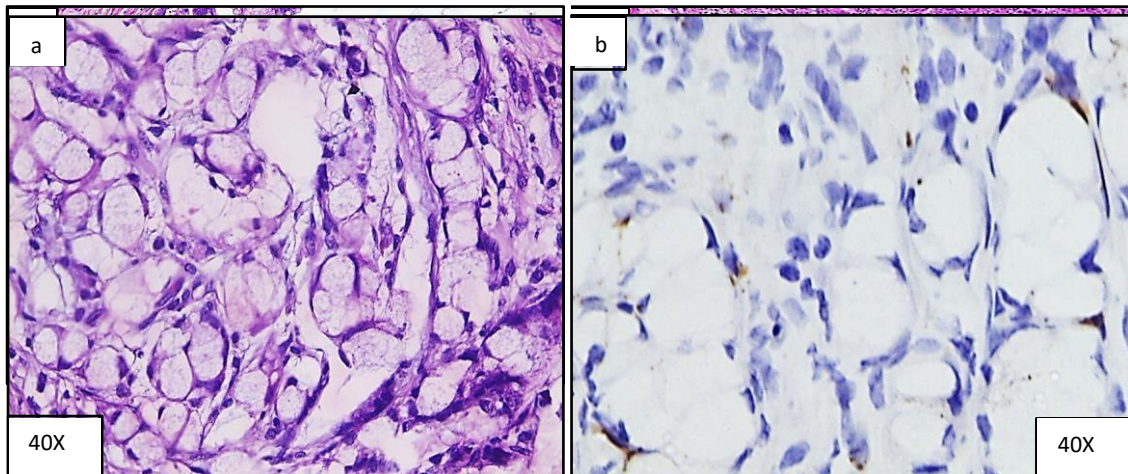
Fig.1a. Dilated and fluid filled appendix with periappendiceal fat stranding and minimal free fluid in the right iliac fossa – suggestive of appendicitis. Fig.1b. Cut section of appendix showing mucosal

**thickening and mucinous appearance.**

Microscopy showed tubules and nests of goblet-like cells invading the muscularis propria, some with endocrine cells. Extracellular mucin present. Base of appendix showed Low grade appendiceal mucinous neoplasm.

Immunohistochemistry with Synaptophysin showed focal positivity in the nests of goblet-like cells.

**Fig.2a. Base of appendix showing low grade appendiceal mucinous neoplasm. Fig.2b. 10X- Tubules and nests of goblet-like cells invading the muscularis propria**



**Fig.2c. Nests of goblet-like cells—40X. Fig.2d. Synaptophysin focally positive.**

The final diagnosis was Goblet cell adenocarcinoma Appendix, Low grade with base of appendix showing Low Grade Appendiceal Mucinous Neoplasm (LAMN).

The patient was followed up. Right hemicolectomy was done 2 months later. We received the specimen in our department. No residual tumour was found on microscopy.

### III. DISCUSSION

Goblet cell adenocarcinoma of appendix coexisting with appendiceal mucinous neoplasms are rare occurrences.

This correlation supports the unitary stem cell concept, which contends that goblet cell adenocarcinomas develop from a single pluripotent intestinal stem cell that can differentiate into neuroendocrine and mucin-producing cells [2]. However, it is still debatable because this link can also be seen as an adenoma-carcinoma sequence, which is also commonly acknowledged [3]. More cases have to be reported to rule out the possibility of a coincidental association.

Once diagnosed, the patient has to be assessed for risk of peritoneal disease and Right hemicolectomy with or without Cytoreductive surgery and Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy to be given accordingly [4].

### IV. CONCLUSION

Ours is a case of a 64 years old man with a clinical and radiological diagnosis of appendicitis for which appendicectomy was done. Microscopic examination of the specimen lead to the final diagnosis of Goblet cell adenocarcinoma, appendix with base of appendix showing Low grade Appendiceal Mucinous Neoplasm which is a rare association. Our case report is significant as this association questions the histopathogenesis of goblet cell adenocarcinoma.

### References

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