

## Amendment of Japanese Consensus Guidelines for Autoimmune Pancreatitis, 2013

### II. Extra-pancreatic lesions, differential diagnosis

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Footnote:

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[The members of the Working Committee are listed in the Appendix #1 in the text.](#)

## ***II. Extra-pancreatic lesions, differential diagnosis***

### ***II-1. Extra-pancreatic lesions***

#### **CQII-1-1: What kinds of extra-pancreatic lesions are complicated with AIP?**

- A variety of extra-pancreatic lesions are reported to be complicated with AIP. Among those cited, those closely associated include lachrymal and salivary gland lesions, hilar lymphadenopathy, interstitial lung disease, sclerosing cholangitis, retroperitoneal fibrosis, and tubulointerstitial nephritis.

#### *(Description)*

A variety of extra-pancreatic lesions are reported to be complicated with AIP; those most closely associated with AIP include lachrymal and salivary gland lesions (Fig. 1) [1], hilar lymphadenopathy [2], interstitial lung disease [3, 4], sclerosing cholangitis [5, 6], retroperitoneal fibrosis (Fig. 2) [7], and tubulointerstitial nephritis [8, 9]. AIP was also reported to be associated with hypophysitis [10], pachymeningitis [11], autoimmune neurosensory hearing loss [12], uveitis [13], chronic thyroiditis [14], pseudotumors (breast, lung, liver) [15-17], gastric ulcer [18], swelling of the papilla of Vater [19], IgG4 hepatopathy [20, 21], aortitis [22], prostatitis [23], IgG4-related perineural disease [24], Schönlein-Henoch purpura [12], and autoimmune thrombocytopenia [25]. A few cases have reported other extra-pancreatic involvements [12, 26, 27]. Though it is not certain that all of these lesions were related to AIP, extra-pancreatic lesions related to AIP are prevalent in systemic organs (Table 1)[10, 12, 14, 23, 26-28]. Relative to the pancreatic lesion(s) in AIP, extra-pancreatic lesions may appear synchronously or metachronously [29], share the same pathological conditions, and show a favorable response to corticosteroid therapy. These characteristics indicate a common pathophysiological

background, which suggests the presence of a systemic, IgG4-related disease [30]. The lesions are typically detected with imaging (CT, MRI, gallium scintigraphy, FDG-PET) [2, 31, 32] and blood tests (hormone assays); however, those results should be confirmed with histological findings. Extra-pancreatic lesions sometimes mimic or are misdiagnosed as primary lesions in the corresponding organs. For example, lachrymal and salivary gland lesions may be taken for Sjogren's syndrome, respiratory lesions may be taken for sarcoidosis, and sclerosing cholangitis may be taken for primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC). Therefore, it is necessary to differentiate between IgG4-related diseases and diseases that arise from the corresponding organs. When a pancreatic lesion is obscure, it may be difficult to detect IgG4-related extra-pancreatic lesions. However, recognition of these extra-pancreatic lesions should also aid in the correct diagnosis of AIP.

#### **CQII-1-2: How are extra-pancreatic lesions diagnosed?**

- The diagnosis of extra-pancreatic lesions complicated with AIP is based on clinical findings that suggest a close association between the lesion and AIP activity, including characteristic pathological findings, a favorable response to corticosteroid therapy, and distinct differentiation from similar lesions due to other causes in the corresponding organ. (Level of recommendation: B)

#### *(Description)*

Several lines of evidence can support the suspicion that an extra-pancreatic lesion is associated with AIP, including: (1) frequent or coincident occurrence; (2) pathological findings of severe lymphoplasmacytic infiltration and storiform fibrosis, IgG4-positive

plasma cell infiltrations, and obliterative phlebitis, (3) favorable response to corticosteroid therapy or synchronous response to therapies, and (4) distinct differentiation from the lesions of the corresponding organ; such as a distinction between AIP-associated salivary gland lesions and those due to Sjögren's syndrome. Among the many possible extra-pancreatic lesions listed in Table 1, the following fulfill the above criteria: lachrymal and salivary gland lesions, respiratory lesions, sclerosing cholangitis, retroperitoneal fibrosis, and tubulointerstitial nephritis.

**CQII-1-3: What are the differences between lachrymal and salivary gland lesions associated with AIP and those associated with Sjögren's syndrome?**

- Compared to those of Sjögren's syndrome, AIP-associated lachrymal and salivary gland lesions show normal or slightly impaired exocrine function, presenting as a slight or negligible dryness in the eyes and mouth. (Level of recommendation: B)
- Salivary gland lesions associated with AIP appear predominantly in the submandibular gland, and those associated with Sjögren's syndrome frequently appear in the parotid gland. (Level of recommendation: B)
- Compared with those of Sjögren's syndrome, AIP-associated lachrymal and salivary gland lesions show negative results in tests for SS-A/Ro and SS-B/La autoantibodies. (Level of recommendation: B)
- Compared with those of Sjögren's syndrome, AIP-associated lachrymal and salivary gland lesions show numerous IgG4-positive plasma cell infiltrations in the affected tissues. (Level of recommendation: B)

- Unlike those of Sjögren's syndrome, AIP-associated lachrymal and salivary gland lesions respond favorably to corticosteroid therapy. (Level of recommendation: B)

*(Description)*

Symmetrical lachrymal and salivary gland lesions were found in 14~39% of patients with AIP (Fig. 1) [12, 26, 27, 33]. These lesions were previously considered to be a complication of Sjögren's syndrome. Currently, these lesions are thought to be related to Mikulicz disease or Kuttner's tumor (chronic sclerosing sialoadenitis) [34, 35]. Useful findings for differentiating among these possibilities include the following: (1) Compared to those of Sjögren's syndrome, AIP-associated lachrymal and salivary gland lesions show normal or slightly impaired exocrine function, presenting as a slight or negligible dryness in the eyes and mouth [33, 36]; (2) salivary gland lesions associated with AIP appear predominantly in the submandibular gland [31], and those associated with Sjögren's syndrome frequently appear in the parotid gland [37]; (3) lachrymal and salivary gland lesions associated with AIP show negative results in tests for SS-A/Ro and SS-B/La autoantibodies [35]; (4) lachrymal and salivary gland lesions associated with AIP show numerous IgG4-positive plasma cell infiltrations in the affected tissues [35]; and (5) lachrymal and salivary gland lesions associated with AIP respond favorably to corticosteroid therapy [35]. Most lesions are bilateral and symmetrically distributed, but a few cases may exhibit unilateral lesions. For a correct diagnosis, a salivary gland biopsy is preferable, but the less invasive lip biopsy can be substituted for examinations of the small salivary gland. AIP complicated with lachrymal and salivary gland lesions represents a highly active state, with higher serum IgG4 concentrations and more severe

pancreatic swelling compared to AIP without complications [27, 38]. When making a diagnosis of AIP-associated lachrymal and salivary gland lesions, it is recommended to refer to the “Diagnostic criteria for IgG4+ Mikulicz’s disease” [39].

#### **CQII-1-4: What kind of respiratory lesions are associated with AIP?**

- Respiratory lesions associated with AIP include interstitial lung disease, asthma, inflammatory pseudotumor of the lung, edema and swelling of the tracheobronchial mucosa, thickening of the bronchial wall and bronchial vascular bundle, pleural lesions, and hilar or mediastinal lymphadenopathy. The lesions must be differentiated from idiopathic interstitial pneumonia, sarcoidosis, and lung tumor. Similar to AIP-associated pancreatic lesions, the pathology of these AIP-associated lesions includes numerous IgG4-bearing plasma cell infiltrations and a favorable response to corticosteroid therapy. (Level of recommendation: B)

#### *(Description)*

Interstitial lung disease was complicated with AIP in 8~13% of patients [3, 4]. This condition exhibited high serum KL-6 levels and alveolar IgG4-bearing plasma cell infiltrations [3, 4, 16]. Thoracic CT showed various lung lesions, bronchial wall thickening, nodules, interlobular thickening, infiltration in the middle and lower lung fields (Fig. 3a,b)[28], and honeycombing in the lower lung field [40]. Sometimes, the IgG4-related respiratory lesions of interstitial pneumonia, nodular lesions, localized ground glass opacity (GGO), and pleural lesions occurred without a pancreatic lesion [16, 41-45]. However, a definitive diagnosis of IgG4-related respiratory lesions was difficult in patients with intrathoracic lesions alone, because IgG4-bearing plasma cells have also

been observed in other types of lung lesions [46].

Another respiratory lesion associated with AIP is an inflammatory pseudotumor of the lung [47]. Though inflammatory pseudotumors comprise various subtypes, that associated with AIP corresponds to a plasma cell granuloma, which shows lymphoplasmacytic infiltration, fibrosis, obstructive phlebitis, and IgG4-bearing plasma cell infiltration; these characteristics are also similar to those of a pancreatic lesion in AIP [47]. In addition, obstructive arteritis is sometimes considered a lung lesion. An inflammatory pseudotumor is often suspected to be a lung tumor, and this suspicion may result in inappropriate resection; however, unlike a lung tumor, the inflammatory pseudotumor responds favorably to corticosteroid therapy (Fig. 3c,d) [28].

Gallium scintigraphy has revealed hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy in 67-75% of patients with AIP. In these cases, bronchoscopy and CT sometimes reveal edema and swelling of the tracheobronchial mucosa and thickening of the bronchial wall and bronchial vascular bundle. These findings are consistent with the characteristics of sarcoidosis (Fig. 3e,f); however, patients with AIP showed normal serum angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) levels [2, 31, 44, 45, 48, 49].

**CQII-1-5: How can AIP-associated sclerosing cholangitis be differentiated from  
PSC or biliary malignancies?**

- The differentiation between AIP-associated sclerosing cholangitis (IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis) and PSC or biliary malignancies should be conducted carefully and based on a combination of clinical features, pathological findings, and imaging tests, such as cholangiography, ultrasonography, endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS), intraductal ultrasonography (IDUS), CT, and MRI. (Level

of recommendation: A)

*(Description)*

AIP-associated sclerosing cholangitis, also known as IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis, is characteristically considered a lower (intrapancreatic) bile duct stenosis, but it is sometimes distributed widely across the biliary system. It may exhibit restricted stenosis from the hilar to the extra-hepatic bile ducts or multiple stenosis in the intra-hepatic bile ducts (Fig. 4) [50]. The lower bile duct lesions must be differentiated from pancreatic cancer or common bile duct cancer; intrahepatic and hilar bile duct lesions must be differentiated from PSC and cholangiocarcinoma, respectively.

There are several differences between IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis and PSC. IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis showed a preponderance among older males, and it was frequently complicated with obstructive jaundice [51-53]; in contrast, PSC was found more commonly in young and middle-aged patients, and it was sometimes complicated with inflammatory bowel diseases [12, 51-53]. Cholangiography of IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis showed lower bile duct stenosis and relatively long strictures from the hilar to the intrahepatic biliary systems, with simple distal dilations [51, 52]; in contrast, cholangiography of PSC characteristically showed band-like strictures (short strictures of 1-2 mm), a beaded appearance, a pruned tree appearance, or diverticulum-like outpouching (Fig. 5) [51, 52, 54]. Ultrasonography of IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis showed wall thickening of the intra- or extra-hepatic bile ducts. Moreover, histological examinations of the bile duct wall in IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis showed similar pathology to that observed in pancreatic tissue [55-57]. Inflammation associated with IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis was found throughout all the layers

of the bile duct wall; however, inflammation associated with PSC was found predominantly in the inner wall portion, with only slight changes in the outer wall portion of the bile duct. Liver biopsies showed several IgG4-bearing plasma cell infiltrations in the portal area in IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis, but only a few in PSC [20, 52, 55-57].

IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis sometimes shows slight or no pancreatic lesions, which may lead to a misdiagnosis of PSC [53, 58, 59]. Even without pancreatic swelling, pancreatography sometimes discloses irregular narrowing of the main pancreatic duct (MPD), which suggests that an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) would be very useful in those occasions [59].

IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis with localized bile duct stenosis must be differentiated from bile duct cancer [60, 61]. Because it is sometimes difficult for cholangiography alone to differentiate between these conditions, it is necessary to perform a careful examination with other tests, such as EUS, IDUS, cytology, and tissue biopsy [60-63]. A finding of IgG4-bearing plasma cell infiltrations in the bile duct wall supports the diagnosis of IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis [53, 58], though some reports have denied the diagnostic utility of a bile duct biopsy [63]. Characteristic IDUS findings are a thickening of the inner hypo-echoic zone and the preservation of the luminal and outer hyper-echoic zones [63, 64]. In some studies, IDUS showed a thickening of the bile duct wall, where cholangiography showed normal findings [63]. These characteristic findings will aid in differentiating between the two conditions (also see CQII-1-6). IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis may also exhibit an inflammatory pseudotumor, like an outgrowing tumor of the bile duct [55], which can be misdiagnosed as bile duct cancer.

IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis is frequently complicated with gallbladder lesions; thus, a thickening of the gallbladder wall can provide a clue to the correct diagnosis [65]. When making a diagnosis of IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis, it is recommended to refer to the “Clinical diagnostic criteria for IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis” [66].

**CQII-1-6: What IDUS findings are characteristic of IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis?**

- Lower bile duct stenosis associated with AIP are caused by two mechanisms: (1) extrinsic compression by a swollen pancreas head and (2) a thickening of the bile duct wall. (Level of recommendation: B)
- Upper bile duct changes are predominantly observed in the hilar to intra-hepatic bile duct system; in those cases, IDUS shows a thickening of the inner hypo-echoic zone. Sometimes, IDUS shows wall thickening of the bile duct, where cholangiography shows normal findings. (Level of recommendation: B)

*(Description)*

IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis is characterized by lower and upper bile duct stenosis. Lower bile duct stenosis is caused by two mechanisms: extrinsic compression from a swollen pancreatic head (Fig. 6a) and thickening of the bile duct wall (Fig. 6b) [28, 63, 67]. Lower bile duct stenosis has frequently been observed in cases of pancreatic head swelling, and lower bile duct wall thickening was reported to be proportional to the degree of bile duct stenosis [67]. In contrast to bile duct cancer, IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis shows concentric wall thickening and delayed enhancement with Levovist [68, 69].

In IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis, upper bile duct changes are predominantly observed in the hilar to intra-hepatic bile duct system. These changes are reminiscent of those observed in PSC, where IDUS showed thickening of the inner hypo-echoic zone (Fig. 6c) [63]. Although differentiation is difficult with IDUS alone, in PSC, the IDUS changes include a slight luminal dilation and an irregular surface (Fig. 6d). In contrast to bile duct cancer, for which IDUS showed destruction of outer hyper-echoic zone (Fig. 6e), in IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis, the IDUS commonly shows preservation of the outer hyper-echoic zone [63].

In some studies, IDUS showed a thickening of the bile duct wall, where cholangiography showed normal findings; the wall of the corresponding region was reported to be thicker than 0.8 mm [63]. Although bile duct wall thickening is predominantly observed in cancer invasion or PSC [70], biliary drainage also induces thickening of the bile duct wall; therefore, an IDUS survey should be performed before biliary drainage [70].

The changes detected by cholangiography in IgG4-related sclerosing cholangitis are promptly ameliorated after corticosteroid therapy. The thickening of the bile duct wall detected with IDUS is also ameliorated in parallel with decreases in cell infiltration and edema, which result in an increase in the echo level in a thickened wall. However, unlike the amelioration evident with cholangiography, the changes detected with IDUS tend to persist after corticosteroid therapy.

**CQII-1-7: What findings are characteristic of retroperitoneal fibrosis associated with AIP?**

- CT and MRI are commonly used to detect morphologic findings characteristic of retroperitoneal fibrosis. These findings include soft tissue densities that represent

masses around the ureter and aorta, near the vertebra, or in the pelvic cavity. (Level of recommendation: B)

- Hydronephrosis and inflammatory aneurysm are sometimes observed as a consequence of retroperitoneal fibrosis. (Level of recommendation: B)

*(Description)*

AIP-associated retroperitoneal fibrosis is characterized by morphologic findings detected in CT and MRI analyses. They include soft tissue densities that represent masses around the aorta (Fig. 2a,b) and the ureter (Fig. 2c), near the vertebra, or in the pelvic cavity; also, there may be increased fat density around the superior mesenteric artery [7, 31]. In addition, with positron emission tomography combined with fludeoxyglucose (FDG-PET), intense FDG uptake is typically observed in the corresponding lesions [71]. Histological studies of biopsy specimens have revealed numerous IgG4-bearing plasma cell infiltrations and obstructive phlebitis [7, 72]. Soft tissue masses around the ureter sometimes induce ureteral strictures, which may result in hydronephrosis and irreversible renal failure [73]. These lesions typically respond favorably to corticosteroid treatment [7]. Some cases exhibit periaortitis with adventitial hypertrophy or aneurysm; those findings were described as an IgG4-related inflammatory abdominal aortic aneurysm [74]. However it is uncertain whether these lesions occurred as a consequence of soft tissue masses around the aorta [22].

**CQII-1-8: What findings are characteristic of AIP-associated kidney disease?**

- AIP-associated kidney disease is referred to as IgG4-related kidney disease; most

lesions represent tubulointerstitial nephritis. (Level of recommendation: B)

- Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT and MRI show poorly-enhanced multiple nodules, wedge-shaped lesions, or round lesions in the renal cortex, and mass lesions in the renal pelvis. (Level of recommendation: B)

*(Description)*

AIP-associated kidney disease is also known as IgG4-related kidney disease. Most lesions are considered tubulointerstitial nephritis [8, 9, 75, 76]; thus, a slight urinary finding is common. Renal function is typically normal or slightly impaired, but in some cases, renal failure may occur after severe renal damage. A blood test frequently shows hypocomplementemia, but it may also show abnormal findings, similar to those found in IgG4-related diseases [76]. AIP-associated kidney disease seldom shows glomerular lesions, like membranous nephropathy [77]. Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT or MRI typically shows poorly-enhanced multiple nodules, wedge-shaped lesions, or round lesions in the renal cortex, or a mass in the renal pelvis; a localized renal distribution is characteristic (Fig. 7) [31, 78]. Histological analyses of biopsy specimens typically show abundant lymphoplasmacytic and slight eosinophilic infiltrations in the tubulointerstitial region. Renal lesions are relatively localized, and they extend from the deep medulla to the outside of the renal capsule. Some reports have described IgG, IgG4, and complement deposits at the basement membranes of the renal tubule [76, 79]. When making a diagnosis of kidney disease, it is recommended to refer to the “Diagnostic criteria for IgG4-related kidney disease” [80].

## ***II-2. Differential diagnosis***

### **CQII-2-1: What clinical symptoms or findings are useful in differentiating between AIP and pancreatic cancer?**

- Useful clinical findings for differentiating between AIP and pancreatic cancer include abdominal pain, weight loss, obstructive jaundice, and extra-pancreatic lesions.

(Level of recommendation: B)

#### *(Description)*

Abdominal pain in pancreatic cancer is severe, persistent, and progressive; it sometimes requires treatment with narcotics. In contrast, abdominal pain in AIP is mild and may only be described as a discomfort of the upper abdomen. [30, 81-87]. Weight loss is frequently observed in pancreatic cancer, but it is rare in AIP. However, weight loss in patients with AIP may occur in cases where diabetes mellitus is not under control. Jaundice in pancreatic cancer is progressive, but in AIP, jaundice occasionally fluctuates, spontaneously subsides, and responds well to corticosteroid therapy [30, 81-87]. In AIP, symptoms associated with various extra-pancreatic lesions include swelling of the lachrymal and salivary glands, jaundice due to sclerosing cholangitis, hydronephrosis due to retroperitoneal fibrosis, hypothyroidism, hypophysitis, and prostatitis [30, 81-87]. In pancreatic cancer, the symptoms associated with apparent extra-pancreatic lesions are restricted to lower bile duct stenosis, metastatic lesions, or direct invasions (Table 2)[28].

### **CQII-2-2: Does a high serum IgG4 concentration rule out the possibility of pancreatic cancer?**

- In terms of sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy, elevated IgG4 is the best marker for

differentiating between AIP and pancreatic cancer; however, a few patients with pancreatic cancer have been reported to have high serum IgG4 concentrations. Thus, high serum IgG4 concentration cannot completely rule out the presence of pancreatic cancer. (Level of recommendation: B)

*(Description)*

A high serum IgG4 concentration is frequently found in AIP [53, 84, 87, 88]. In normal subjects, IgG4 comprises 4-6% of total IgG, and IgG4 serum elevations have been known to occur in a few specific conditions, such as allergic diseases, parasite infestations, and pemphigus vulgaris. Serum IgG4 elevations are rarely found in other pancreatic diseases and related autoimmune diseases, such as pancreatic cancer, chronic pancreatitis, primary biliary cirrhosis, PSC, and Sjögren's syndrome. Thus, a high serum IgG4 concentration is fairly specific to AIP. Furthermore, a finding of numerous IgG4-bearing plasma cell infiltrations in pancreatic tissue is a diagnostic hallmark [7].

In differentiating between AIP and pancreatic cancer, a comparison of various serum markers showed that the best results were obtained with IgG4, with 86% sensitivity, 96% specificity, and 91% accuracy (Table 3)[28]. IgG4 was therefore adopted as the best marker in the Japanese diagnostic criteria for 2006 and 2011 and for the International Consensus Diagnostic Criteria for AIP [83, 89]. However, serum IgG4 elevations or numerous IgG4 bearing plasma cell infiltrations were found in a few patients with pancreatic cancer [87]. Evidently, a high serum IgG4 concentration and increased IgG4 positive plasma cell infiltrations in pancreatic tissue is not completely specific for AIP; thus, these findings cannot exclude the presence of pancreatic cancer.

**CQII-2-3: What CT, MRI, and FDG-PET findings are useful in differentiating between AIP and pancreatic cancer?**

- Characteristic CT and MRI findings in AIP include a smooth pancreatic margin and a capsule-like rim on the pancreas. (Level of recommendation: A)
- Contrast-enhanced CT often shows delayed enhancement in pancreatic lesions, both in AIP and pancreatic cancer. However, contrast-enhanced images are generally homogeneous in AIP and heterogeneous in pancreatic cancer; this distinction should aid in the differentiation of these conditions. (Level of recommendation: B)
- Fat-suppressed T1-weighted MR images of AIP show low signal intensity in pancreatic parenchyma lesions, with speckled/dotted, high signal intensity in the lesion. (Level of recommendation: B)
- T2-weighted MR images of AIP sometimes show the main pancreatic duct (MPD) clearly penetrating through a mass lesion; this duct-penetrating sign is not found in pancreatic cancer. (Level of recommendation: A)
- Localized swelling in AIP is sometimes difficult to differentiate from swellings in pancreatic cancer, but in AIP, the swellings show marked amelioration after corticosteroid therapy. (Level of recommendation: A)
- FDG-PET shows intense FDG accumulation at a high rate in the pancreatic lesions of AIP and pancreatic cancer. However, in AIP, the pancreatic FDG distribution is diffuse with multiple patterns, and FDG is also distributed in extra-pancreatic sites, within lachrymal and salivary glands. These findings are useful for differentiating AIP from pancreatic cancer. (Level of recommendation: B)

*(Description)*

AIP sometimes shows a focal mass on CT and MRI, which should be differentiated from those detected in pancreatic cancer (Fig. 8a). Pancreatic swellings found in AIP ameliorated dramatically after corticosteroid therapy (Fig. 8b). However, because pancreatic mass lesions are more common in pancreatic cancer than in AIP, diagnosing masses related to AIP requires close attention.

A characteristic finding in AIP is a capsule-like rim that appears on CT and MRI of the pancreatic margin [90-92]. This rim is prominent at the body and tail regions of the pancreas, and it represents severe fibrotic changes (Fig. 9). CT and MRI of an aged pancreas showed a lobulated margin and a cobblestone-like texture; in contrast, imaging of a pancreas with AIP showed a smooth margin probably since an early stage of the disease (Fig. 9).

Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT with a rapid infusion of contrast material is essential for a CT analysis of pancreatic lesions. In the early phase (pancreatic parenchymal phase), the contrast material stains the parenchyma of normal pancreatic tissues; in the late phase, the contrast medium reaches equilibrium between intra- and extra-vascular fluids. Intense staining in the late phase indicates fibrosis. A contrast-enhanced CT of the AIP pancreas shows delayed homogeneous enhancement in pancreatic mass lesions, which indicates widespread loss of the parenchyma and severe fibrosis (Fig. 10a,b). A contrast-enhanced CT of pancreatic cancer also shows delayed enhancement, however, in contrast to AIP, the staining pattern shows heterogeneous enhancement (Fig. 10c,d), reflecting necrosis or bleeding in the tumor [91, 93].

T1-weighted images are essential for MRI analyses of pancreatic lesions. In combination with the fat-suppressed method, this approach can detect detailed changes in the pancreatic parenchyma. Fat-suppressed T1-weighted MR images of a normal pancreas

show high signal intensity compared to those of the liver (Fig. 11a); in contrast, those of a pancreas with AIP show a reduced signal, reflecting the loss of normal parenchyma (Fig. 11b)[28]. Histological analyses of resected AIP-affected pancreatic tissues frequently show a mixture of normal and inflammatory pancreatic tissues [94]. In accordance with this finding, fat-suppressed T1-weighted MR images sometimes show a speckled/dotted hyper-intense region that is enhanced in the pancreatic phase of dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI of the affected mass lesion. This finding is useful for differentiating AIP from pancreatic cancer, because these lesions show high densities in the early phase [95]. T2-weighted MR images of the pancreas with AIP generally show high intensity signals, reflecting severe lymphoplasmacytic infiltration. T2-weighted MR images of the pancreas with AIP sometimes show the main pancreatic duct (MPD) clearly penetrating through the mass lesion. This duct-penetrating sign is useful for differentiation between AIP and pancreatic cancer [96] (Fig. 11c,d) [28]. However, the frequency of the duct-penetrating sign was also reported to be not different between a focal, small AIP and pancreatic cancer [95].

In AIP, CT and MRI sometimes show wall thickening in the gallbladder and bile duct, even in the absence of duct stenosis (Fig. 12) [28, 91, 92]. These findings are rare in pancreatic cancer.

The findings discussed above are characteristic of AIP in an active stage. However, AIP may progress to intraductal stone formation after several relapse attacks, resulting in pancreatic juice stasis and severe calcification; thus, AIP becomes indistinguishable from ordinary chronic pancreatitis (Fig. 13) [28, 97-99].

Like ERCP, magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) of the pancreas with AIP also shows narrowing of the MPD, but with low resolution. ERCP findings that

differentiate AIP from pancreatic cancer include a longer stenosis in the MPD (more than 3 cm), the presence of branches in the stenosed MPD region, and, after a stenosis of less than 4 mm, a non-dilated MPD [100, 101]. These findings are not available in AIP cases with MPD obstruction. However, MRCP can image the distal duct, even when ERCP only shows obstruction. In AIP, MRCP can detect MPD dilation, but it provides comparatively poor images of MPD narrowing or side branches (compared to ERCP) [102]. Like ERCP, MRCP of the MPD typically shows mild or no distal dilation in AIP (Fig. 14a) [28, 102], but prominent dilation in pancreatic cancer (Fig. 14b).

FDG-PET shows intense FDG accumulation at a high rate in the pancreatic lesions of both AIP and pancreatic cancer. In AIP, the pancreatic distribution is diffuse with signals at multiple sites. In pancreatic cancer, the signal is restricted to a solitary site [32, 103]. Also in AIP, FDG accumulation appears at extra-pancreatic sites, like the lachrymal and salivary glands or the hilar lymph node. These features are useful for differentiating between AIP and pancreatic cancer [32, 103, 104]. Another useful finding for differentiating AIP from pancreatic cancer is a rapid decrease in FDG accumulation after corticosteroid therapy [104, 105].

**CQII-2-4: What EUS findings are useful in differentiating between AIP and pancreatic cancer or ordinary chronic pancreatitis?**

- In AIP, a typical EUS of the pancreas shows a relatively diffuse, homogeneous, hypo-echoic pattern and linear or reticular (tortoiseshell pattern) hyper-echoic inclusions. (Level of recommendation: B)
- Compared to chronic pancreatitis, in AIP, EUS typically shows a homogeneous hypo-echoic pattern in the pancreatic parenchyma; in contrast, the EUS rarely shows

characteristics like those of chronic pancreatitis (e.g., heterogeneous texture, lobule-shaped margin, calcification, and hyper-echoic ductal margin). (Level of recommendation: B)

- EUS of a localized mass in AIP also shows hypo-echoic patterns; however, linear or reticular (tortoiseshell patterns) hyper-echoic inclusions and the duct-penetrating sign aid in differentiating AIP from pancreatic cancer. (Level of recommendation: B)
- EUS with fine needle aspiration (EUS-FNA) has diagnostic utility for discounting pancreatic cancer. (Level of recommendation: A)

*(Description)*

Few studies have described EUS findings that might differentiate between AIP and pancreatic cancer or chronic pancreatitis. However, some findings useful for differentiation can be deduced from EUS or US studies of each disease [106-110]. Typical EUS of the pancreas with AIP showed a diffuse hypo-echoic pattern [106-111] (Fig. 15a)[28], which reflected severe inflammatory cell infiltration. EUS of the pancreas in chronic pancreatitis showed a heterogeneous echo pattern, even when inflammatory changes were severe. Hyper-echoic inclusions were found in both conditions, but in AIP, they occurred less frequently, and they characteristically presented as linear or reticular patterns (tortoiseshell pattern) against the hypo-echoic background in the post acute phase (Fig. 15b)[28]. These findings may represent interlobular fibrosis. Chronic pancreatitis, unlike AIP, generally has a lobule-shaped pancreatic margin, a hyper-echoic ductal margin, calcification, and cysts. In addition, the hyper-echoic inclusions found in AIP sometimes disappear promptly after corticosteroid treatment. A localized mass with a hypo-echoic pattern was found in EUS studies of both AIP and pancreatic cancer;

however, only AIP is generally associated with linear or reticular (tortoiseshell pattern) hyper-echoic inclusions (Fig. 15c) [28] and the duct-penetrating sign (Fig. 15d) [28, 111]. Although EUS findings of lymph node swelling and vascular invasion are typically associated with pancreatic cancer, it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between the two conditions, and EUS-FNA may be required [112]. EUS-FNA is an excellent diagnostic tool for discounting pancreatic cancer, due to its high specificity (98-100%); however, it cannot provide a definitive diagnosis of AIP, due to the small sample volume [113-115].

**CQII-2-5: What pathological findings are useful for differentiating AIP from pancreatic cancer?**

- A histological identification of carcinoma cells is a hallmark for the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. (Level of recommendation: A)
- Inflammatory reactions can be commonly observed around pancreatic cancer. (Level of recommendation: A)
- Neutrophilic infiltrates, lymphocyte-predominant infiltrates with scarce plasma cells and proliferation of plump fibroblasts are more common in pancreatic cancer than in AIP, and these findings should not be regarded solely as diagnostic criteria for differentiation. (Level of recommendation: B)

*(Description)*

Diagnosis of pancreatic cancer by pathological findings can be confirmed by histological identification of carcinoma cells. This is usually easy with resected specimens. Because EUS-FNA is specific for the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, it provides a useful way to

exclude the presence of pancreatic cancer [113, 114]. However, it is common to observe inflammatory reactions around pancreatic cancer, and interpretation of biopsy specimens with inflammatory changes should be done carefully to correctly diagnose AIP. There has been insufficient evidence regarding the differentiation between AIP and pancreatic cancer based on pathological findings. Neutrophilic infiltrates, inflammatory infiltrates and edema in the lobules, proliferation of plump fibroblasts, and lymphocyte-predominant infiltrates with scarce plasma cells are more common in pancreatic cancer than in AIP (Fig. 16a)[28]. Numerous plasma cell infiltration is regarded as a characteristic finding of AIP, whereas predominant lymphocytic infiltration with scarce plasma cell is preferentially found at inflammatory sites of pancreatic cancer (Fig. 16b)[28]. These findings in isolation should not be regarded as definitive diagnostic indications for AIP. In addition, lymphoid follicles are commonly seen in both pancreatic cancer and AIP, and should not be regarded as a diagnostic hallmark of AIP. Periductitis and obstructive phlebitis are characteristic findings for AIP, however, these are rarely found in biopsy specimens and histological diagnosis using biopsy specimens is difficult [116]. Especially, few reports showed clear significance of EUS-FNA in the histological diagnosis of AIP [115, 117]. Contrary to this, EUS-truecut biopsy with IgG4 immunostaining was reported to be useful for the diagnosis of AIP [115, 117].

**CQII-2-6: Are the histological features characteristic of AIP observed in pancreatic cancer?**

- In rare cases, reaction around pancreatic cancer histologically resembles AIP (lymphoplasmacytic sclerosing pancreatitis). (Level of recommendation: B)
- Numerous IgG4-positive plasma cells can be occasionally identified in pancreatic

cancer. (Level of recommendation: B)

*(Description)*

Rare pancreatic cancers reveal histological features that resemble AIP (Fig. 17a) [28, 118-120]. Alternatively, few histological studies of pancreatic cancer concomitant with AIP has also been reported. Whether or not these characteristic findings are found in pancreatic cancer, numerous IgG4-positive plasma cells are occasionally identified in pancreatic cancer (Fig. 17b) [28, 116, 121, 122].

- **Appendix #1**

The Working Committee of the Japan Pancreas Society (JPS) and the Research Committee for Intractable Pancreatic Disease supported by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan (RCIPD-MHLWJ):

- I. The professional committee for making clinical questions and statements  
Chairperson: Kazuichi Okazaki (Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Kansai Medical University)  
Co-Chairpersons: Shigeyuki Kawa (Center for Health, Safety and Environmental Management, Shinshu University), Terumi Kamisawa (Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo Metropolitan Komagome Hospital)  
Committee members:  
Tetsuhide Ito (Department of Medicine and Bioregulatory Science, Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kyushu University) , Kazuo Inui (Department of Gastroenterology, Second Teaching Hospital, Fujita Health University), Hiroyuki Irie (Department of Radiology, Faculty of Medicine, Saga University), Takayoshi Nishino (Department of Gastroenterology, Yachiyo Medical Center, Tokyo Women's Medical University), Kenji Notohara (Department of Anatomic Pathology, Kurashiki Central Hospital), Keishi Kubo (Department of Internal Medicine, Shinshu University School of Medicine), Hirotaka Ohara (Department of Community-Based Medical Education, Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences), Atsushi Irisawa (Department of Gastroenterology, Fukushima Medical University Aizu Medical Center), Yasunari Fujinaga (Department of Radiology, Shinshu University School of Medicine), Osamu Hasebe (Department of Gastroenterology, Nagano Municipal Hospital) , Isao Nishimori (Nishimori Clinic), Shigeki Tanaka (Department of Acupuncture and Moxibustion, Tokyo Ariake University of Medical and Health Sciences)
- II. The expert panelist committee for rating statements by the modified Delphi method  
Chairperson: Tooru Shimosegawa  
Committee members: Kazuichi Okazaki, Shigeyuki Kawa, Terumi Kamisawa, Tetsuhide Ito, Kazuo Inui, Takayoshi Nishino, Hirotaka Ohara, Isao Nishimori, Shigeki Tanaka
- III. The Evaluating Committee  
Chairperson: Masao Tanaka (Department of Surgery and Oncology, Kyushu University)
  - 1) Committee members:  
Toshimasa Nishiyama (Department of Public Health and Hygiene, Kansai Medical University), Koichi Suda (Department of Pathology, Tokyo-West Tokushukai Hospital), Keiko Shiratori (Department of Gastroenterology, Tokyo Women's Medical University), Kenji Notohara, Keishi Kubo, Hiroshi Yamamoto, Hirotaka Ohara, Atsushi Irisawa, Yasunari Fujinaga, Osamu Hasebe, Shigeki Tanaka
  - 2) Committee Members of the JPS for Autoimmune Pancreatitis:  
Kazushige Uchida (Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Kansai Medical University), Atsushi Kanno (Division of Gastroenterology, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine), Kensuke Kubota (Department of Gastroenterology, Yokohama City University), Shigeru Ko (Department of Systems Medicine, Keio University), Junichi Sakagami (Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine), Kyoko Shimizu (Department of Gastroenterology, Tokyo Women's Medical University), Masanori Sugiyama (Department of Surgery, Kyorin University), Minoru Tada (Department of Gastroenterology, University of Tokyo), Takahiro Nakazawa (Department of Gastroenterology and Metabolism, Nagoya City University), Hirokazu Nishino (Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Jikei University School of Medicine), Hideaki Hamano (Medical Informatics Division and Department of Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Shinshu University Hospital), Yoshiki

Hirooka (Department of Endoscopy, Nagoya University Hospital), Kenji Hirano (Department of Gastroenterology, University of Tokyo), Atsushi Masamune (Division of Gastroenterology, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine), Atsuhiro Masuda (Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine), Nobumasa Mizuno (Department of Gastroenterology, Aichi Cancer Center Hospital), Koji Yamaguchi (Department of Surgery 1, University of Occupational and Environmental Health), Hitoshi Yoshida (Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, Showa University School of Medicine)

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## Figure legends

Figure 1. Swelling of lachrymal and salivary glands (submandibular glands).

(a) Coronal section of the skull. Enhanced MRI shows bilateral swollen lachrymal glands (arrows). (b) Coronal section of the skull. Enhanced MRI (section next to that in panel a) shows bilateral swollen salivary glands (arrows) with homogeneous staining.

Figure 2. Retroperitoneal fibrosis.

(a) Enhanced CT (arterial phase) shows an abdominal soft tissue density, indicating a mass around the aorta, which also surrounds the inferior mesenteric artery (arrow). (b) CT shows a soft tissue density indicating a mass around the aorta and the inferior mesenteric artery (arrow). (c) CT shows bilateral soft tissue densities, indicating masses around the ureters (arrows).

Figure 3. Various lung lesions associated with AIP.

CT shows various lung lesions associated with AIP; (a)(b) bronchial wall thickening, a nodule, interlobular thickening, and infiltration in the lower lung field. CT shows nodular lesion identified as an inflammatory pseudotumor (arrow), (c) Before corticosteroid therapy, (d) after therapy, the nodular lesion disappeared. Sarcoidosis-like lesion was shown; (e) CT shows hilar and mediastinal lymph node swelling and thickening of the bronchial wall and bronchial vascular bundle. (f) Bronchoscopy shows edema of the bronchial mucosa.

Figure 4. Schematic classification of sclerosing cholangitis associated with AIP, identified with cholangiography. Type 1: stenosis only in the lower part of the common bile duct. Type 2: stenosis in the intrahepatic and extra-hepatic bile ducts; (type 2a) extended narrowing of intrahepatic bile ducts with pre-stenotic dilation; (type 2b) extended narrowing of intrahepatic bile ducts without pre-stenotic dilation and a reduced number of bile duct branches. Type 3: stenoses both in hilar hepatic lesions and the lower part of the common bile ducts. Type 4: stenosis only in the hilar hepatic lesions.

Figure 5. Comparison between cholangiogram characteristics of PSC and sclerosing cholangitis with AIP.

Figure 6. Intraductal ultrasonography findings

Intraductal ultrasonograph of an intrapancreatic bile duct stenosis found in sclerosing cholangitis associated with AIP: (a) Intraductal ultrasonograph shows lower bile duct stenosis (arrow) caused by extrinsic compression, due to an inflammatory extension from a pancreatic head lesion (arrow heads). (b) Intraductal ultrasonograph shows lower bile duct stenosis caused by wall thickening of the bile duct (arrow head).

Intraductal ultrasonograph of extra-pancreatic bile duct dilation found in sclerosing cholangitis associated with AIP: (c) Intraductal ultrasonograph shows luminal dilation of upper bile duct (arrow) and homogeneous thickening of inner hypo-echoic zone (arrow heads). (d) Intraductal ultrasonograph shows

upper bile duct stenosis with a slight luminal dilation (arrow), and an irregular surface (arrow head).

Intraductal ultrasonograph of extra-pancreatic bile duct stenosis found in extra-pancreatic bile duct cancer: (e) Intraductal ultrasonograph shows destruction (arrows) of outer hyper-echoic zone (dotted arrow) due to cancer invasion (arrow heads).

Figure 7. Kidney disease.

Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT (arterial phase) shows poorly-enhanced multiple nodules, wedge-shaped lesions, and round lesions in both renal cortexes.

Figure 8. Localized pancreatic mass in AIP

(a) Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT (arterial phase) shows poorly-enhanced localized mass in the pancreatic head (arrows). (b) After corticosteroid therapy, the pancreatic swelling decreased in size and the localized mass disappeared.

Figure 9. CT image of typical diffuse type of AIP.

Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT shows the pancreas with diffuse swelling, a smooth margin, and a capsule-like rim in a patient with AIP.

Figure 10. Differences of CT images between localized type of AIP and pancreatic cancer

CT image of localized type of AIP: (a) Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT (arterial

phase) of AIP-affected pancreas shows a poorly-enhanced, localized mass in the pancreatic tail (arrows) detected in the early phase. **(b)** In the late phase, a delayed, homogeneous enhancement is shown in region of the mass. CT image of pancreatic head cancer: **(c)** Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT (arterial phase) shows a poorly-enhanced, localized mass in the pancreatic head (arrows). **(d)** In the late phase, a delayed, heterogeneous enhancement is detected with a central poorly-enhanced region (arrow) in the mass.

Figure 11. MRI of the pancreas.

**(a)** Fat-suppressed T1-weighted MRI of a normal pancreas shows a high signal intensity compared to that of the liver (arrows). **(b)** Fat-suppressed T1-weighted MRI of an AIP-affected pancreas shows a decreased signal in the swollen pancreatic body and tail (arrows). **(c)** Fat-suppressed T1-weighted MRI of AIP shows a decreased signal in a pancreatic body mass (arrow). **(d)** T2-weighted MRI of AIP shows the main pancreatic duct clearly penetrating through the mass (arrow points to the duct-penetrating sign).

Figure 12. CT image of gallbladder and bile duct lesions in AIP.

**(a)** Dynamic contrast-enhanced CT (arterial phase) of AIP-affected tissues shows pancreatic swelling and thickening of the gallbladder wall (arrow). **(b)** In the late phase, dynamic contrast-enhanced CT shows thickening of the bile duct wall in AIP (arrows).

Figure 13. CT shows an intraductal pancreatic stone in a patient with AIP

Figure 14. MRCP image of AIP-affected pancreas and pancreatic cancer

(a) MRCP shows minor or no distal dilation in AIP-affected MPD after a stenosis. (b) MRCP shows a prominent dilation in pancreatic cancer-affected MPD after a stenosis.

Figure 15. EUS finding in AIP

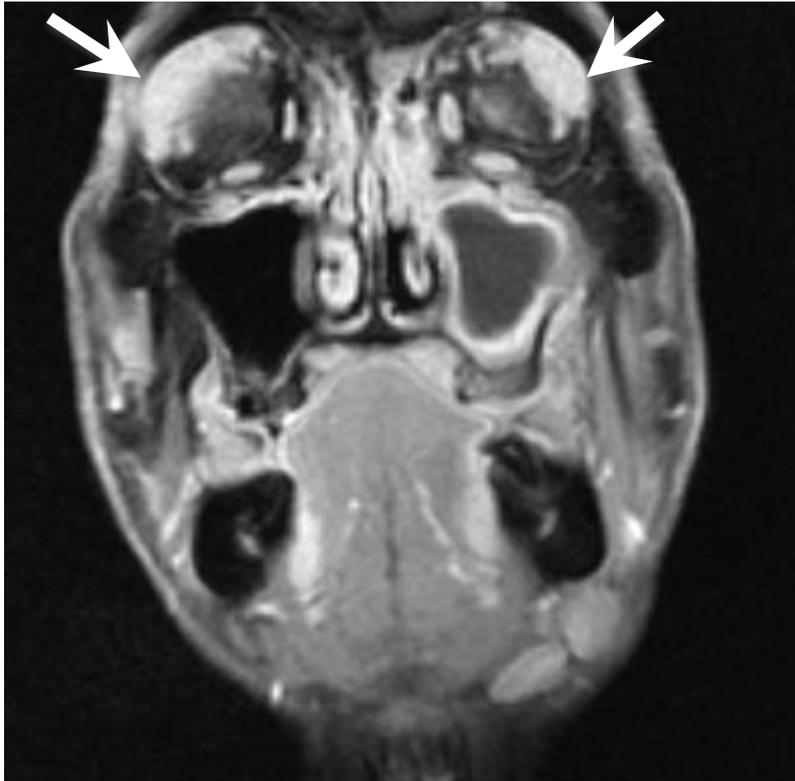
(a) EUS shows a diffuse, hypo-echoic pattern in the swollen pancreas affected by AIP; this finding is rarely observed in cases of chronic pancreatitis. (b) EUS shows hyper-echoic inclusions, represented by linear or reticular patterns (tortoiseshell pattern) against the hypo-echoic background in the swollen pancreas affected by AIP; these findings are also commonly observed in cases of chronic pancreatitis. (c) EUS shows a localized mass with a hypo-echoic pattern and linear or reticular (tortoiseshell pattern) hyper-echoic inclusions in the pancreas of a patient with AIP. (d) EUS shows the pancreatic duct penetrating through a lesion in the swollen pancreatic parenchyma (arrow points to the duct-penetrating sign) in the pancreas of a patient with AIP.

Figure 16. Histopathological finding in pancreatic cancer.

(a) Tumor biopsy specimen (HE staining) shows a proliferation of plump fibroblasts (desmoplastic reaction). Neutrophilic infiltrates (microabscess) appear in the central area. (b) Tumor biopsy specimen (HE staining) shows predominant lymphocytic infiltration surrounding pancreatic cancer duct cells (arrows). A lymphoid follicle is present at the right.

Figure 17. Histopathological finding in pancreatic cancer.

(a) Tumor biopsy specimen (HE staining) shows lymphoplasmacytic infiltration and fibrosis around pancreatic cancer cells; this finding resembles lymphoplasmacytic sclerosing pancreatitis (b) Tumor biopsy specimen (IgG4 immunostaining) shows numerous IgG4-positive plasma cells around pancreatic cancer cells (arrow).

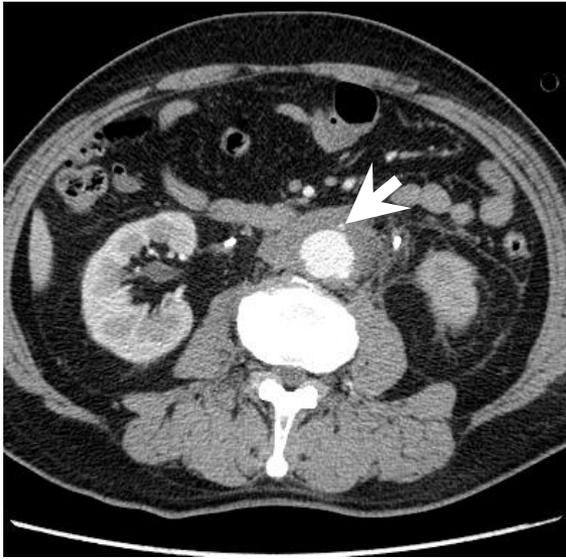


a



b

Figure 1



a



b

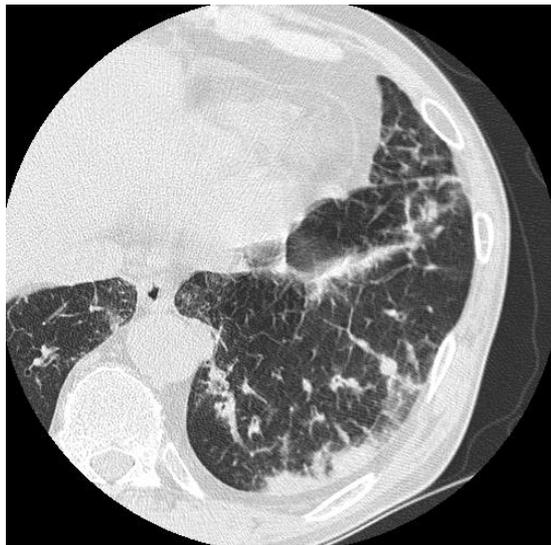


c

Figure 2



a



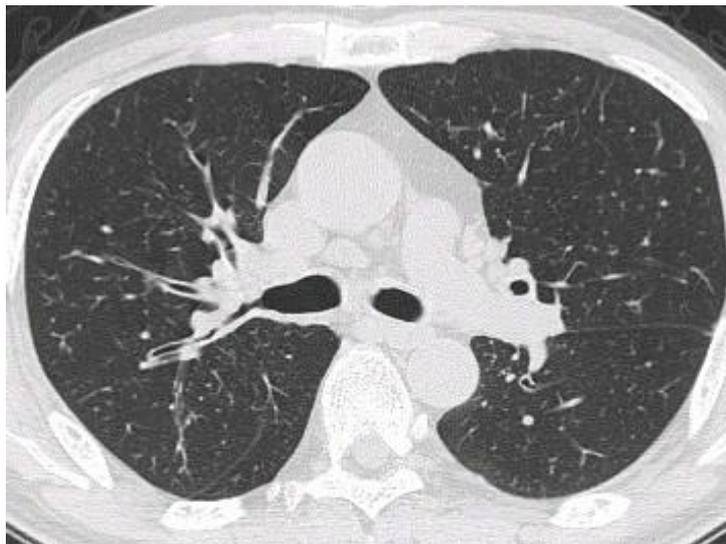
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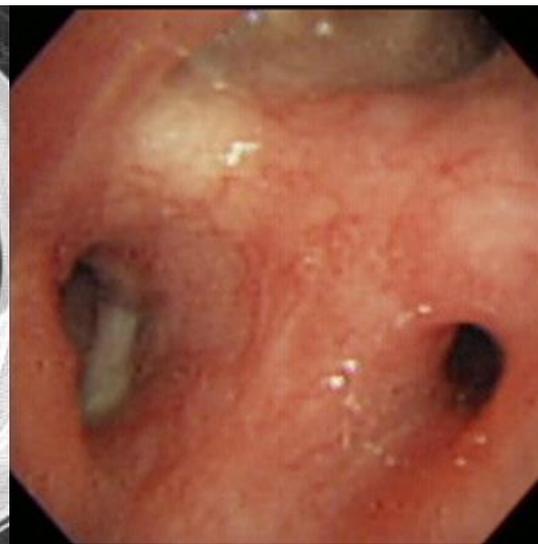
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Figure 3

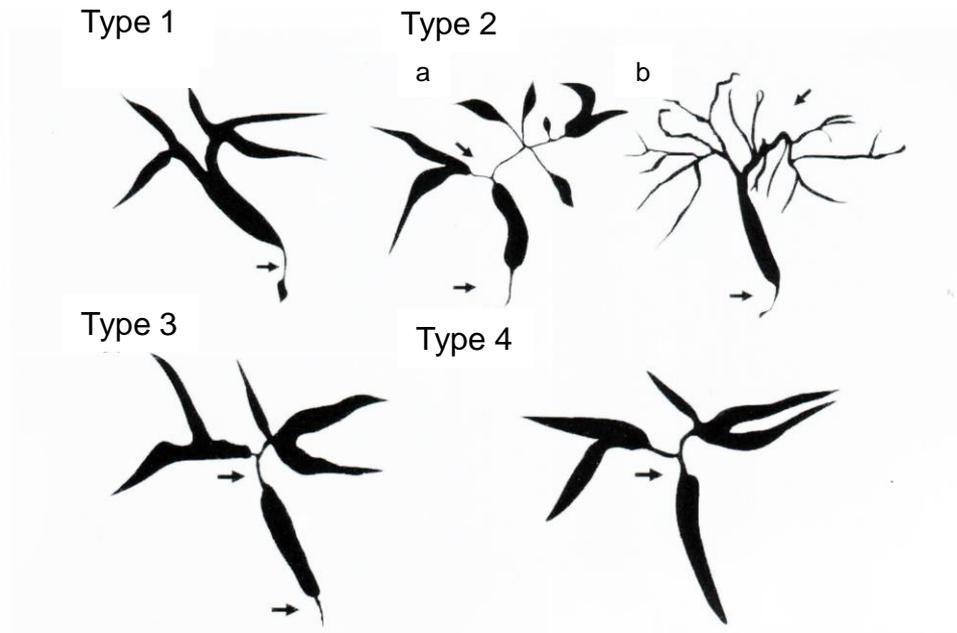
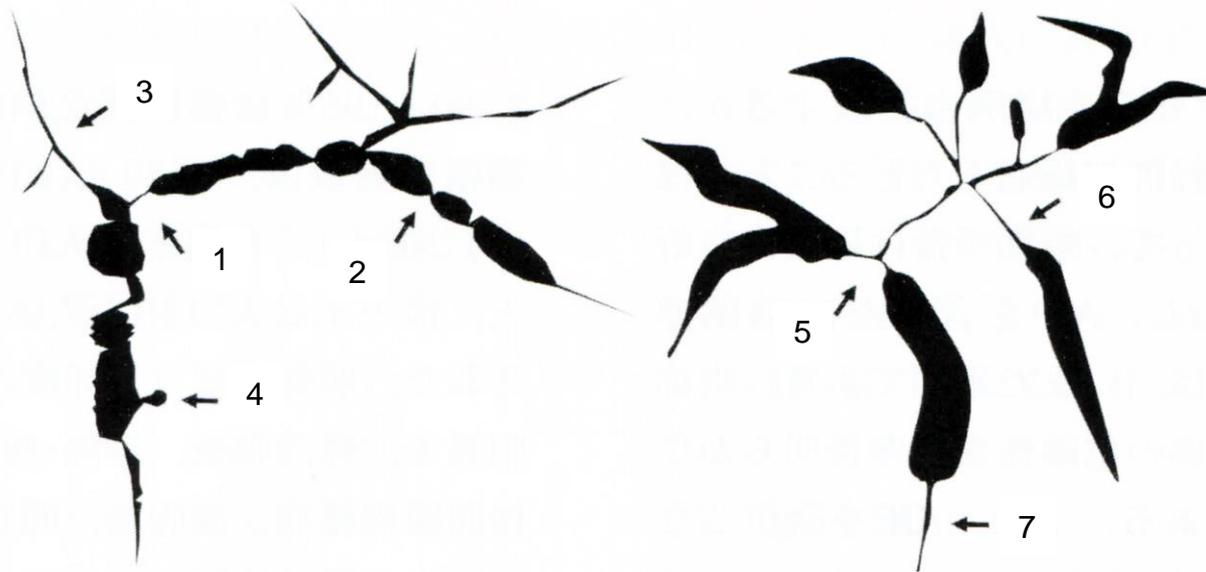


Figure 4

PSC

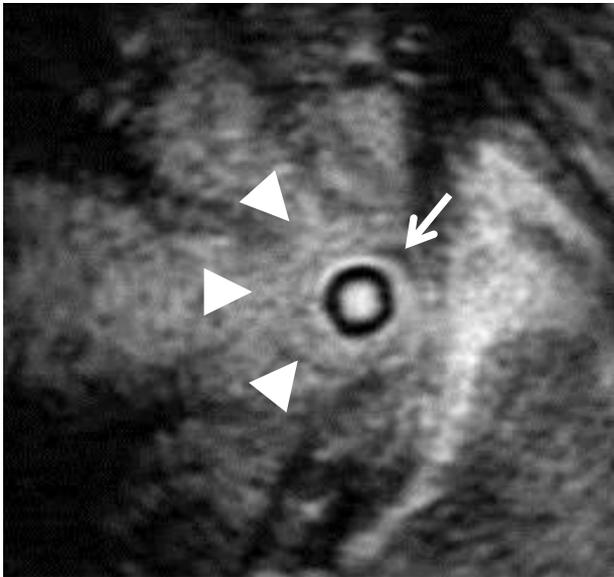
Sclerosing cholangitis with AIP



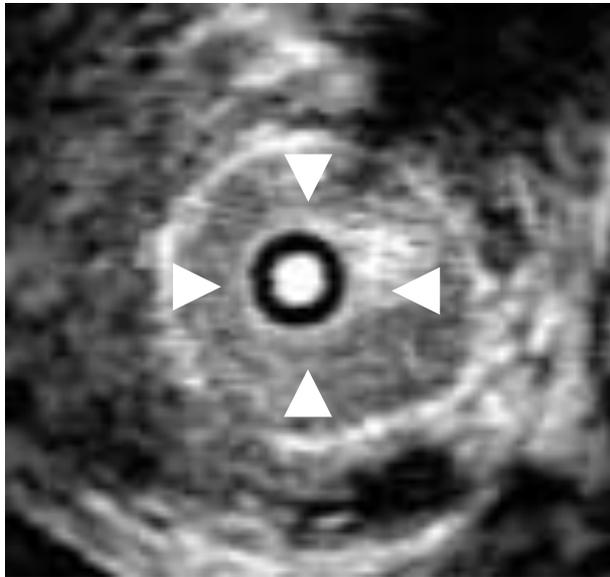
1. band-like stricture
2. beaded appearance
3. pruned-tree appearance
4. diverticulum-like outpouching

5. segmental stricture
6. long stricture with prestenotic dilation
7. stricture of lower CBD

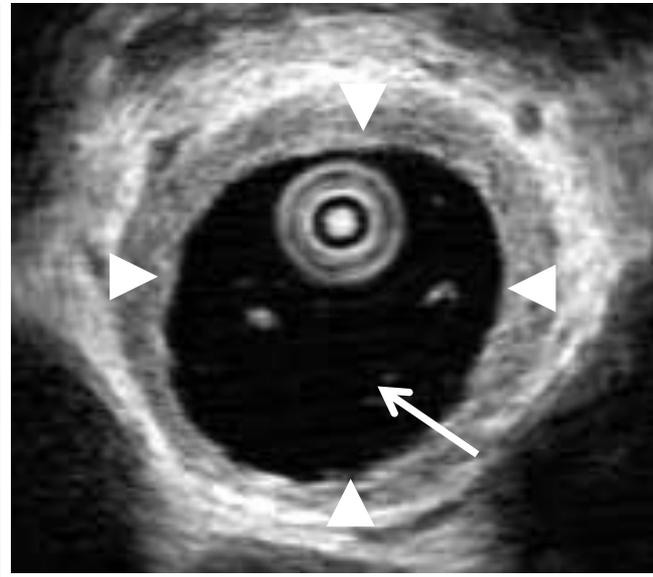
Figure 5



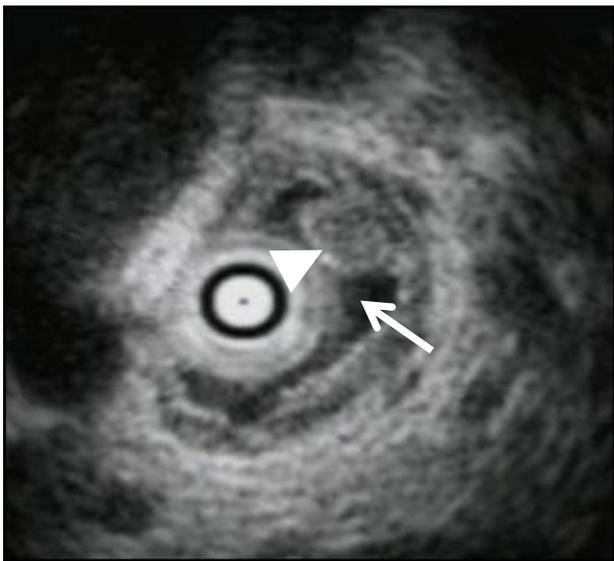
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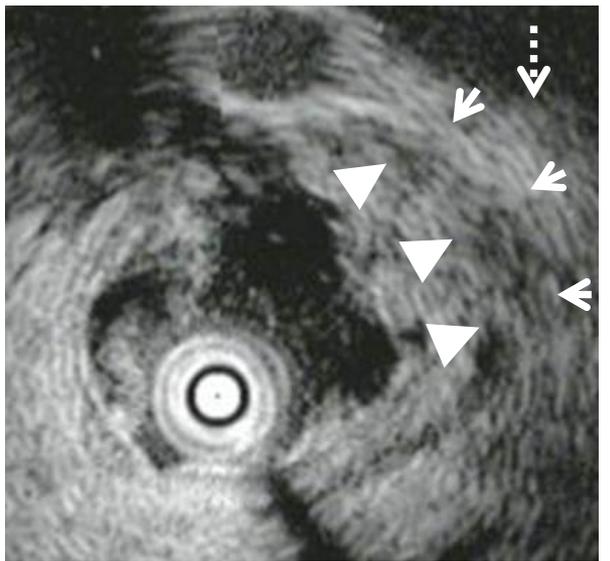
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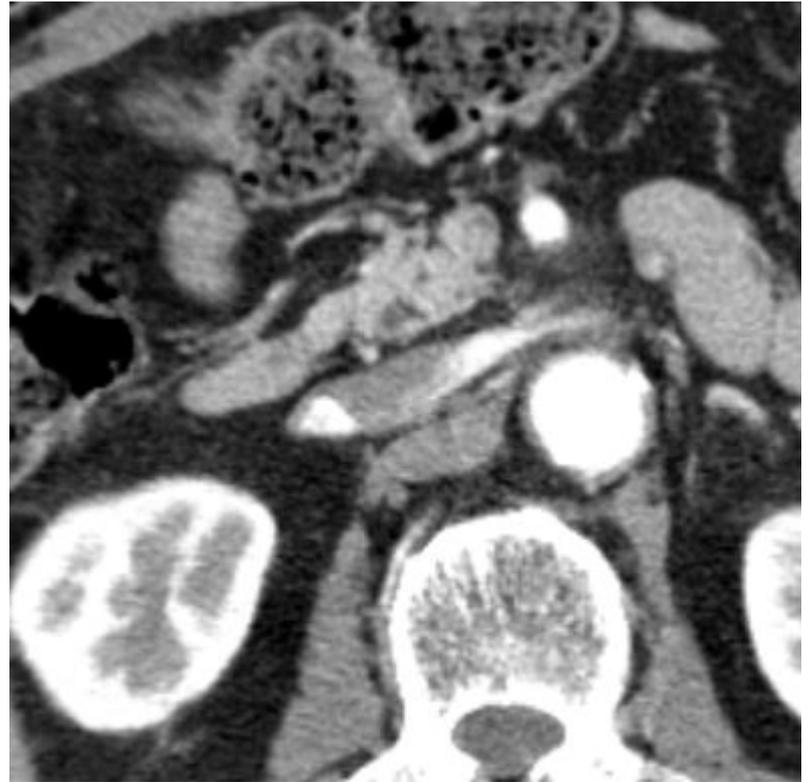
Figure 6



Figure 7



a



b

Figure 8

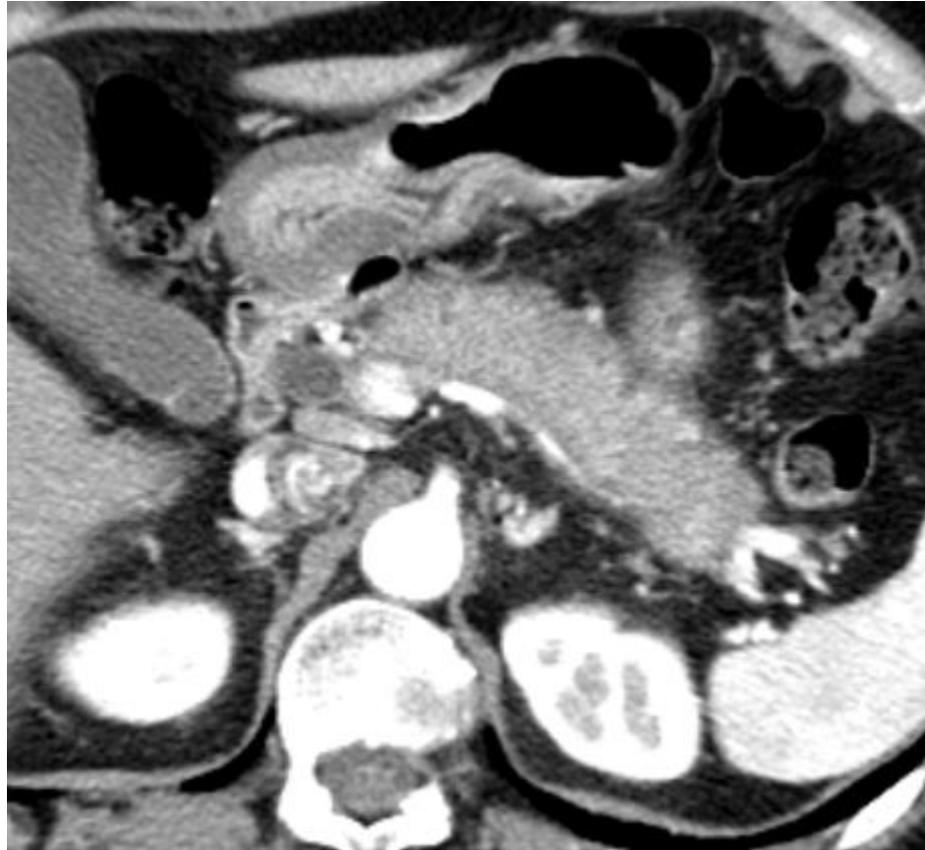


Figure 9

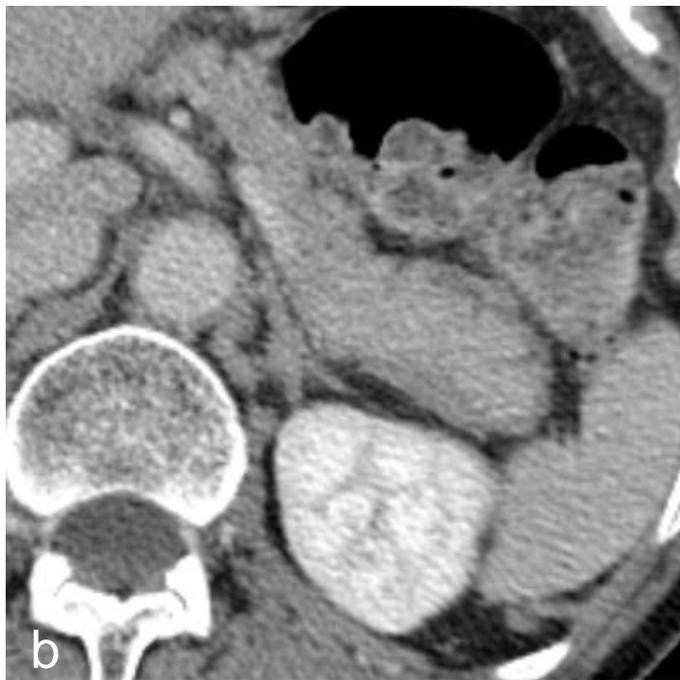


Figure 10

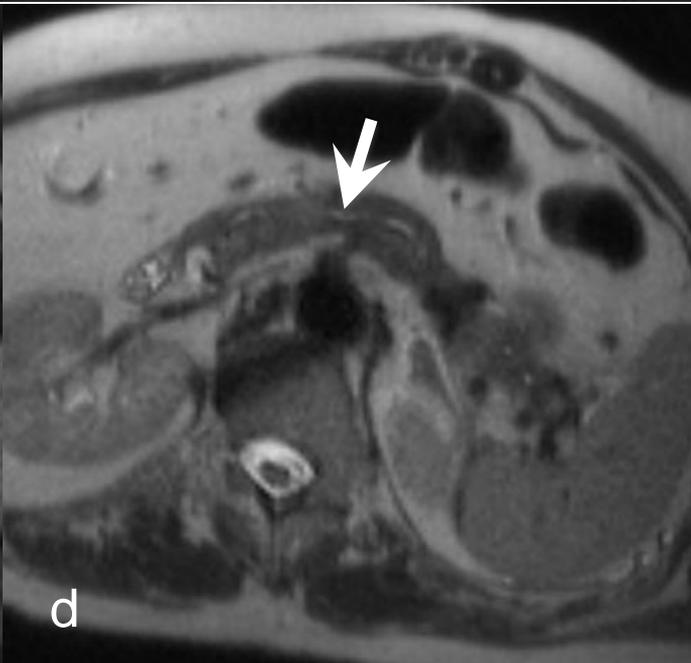
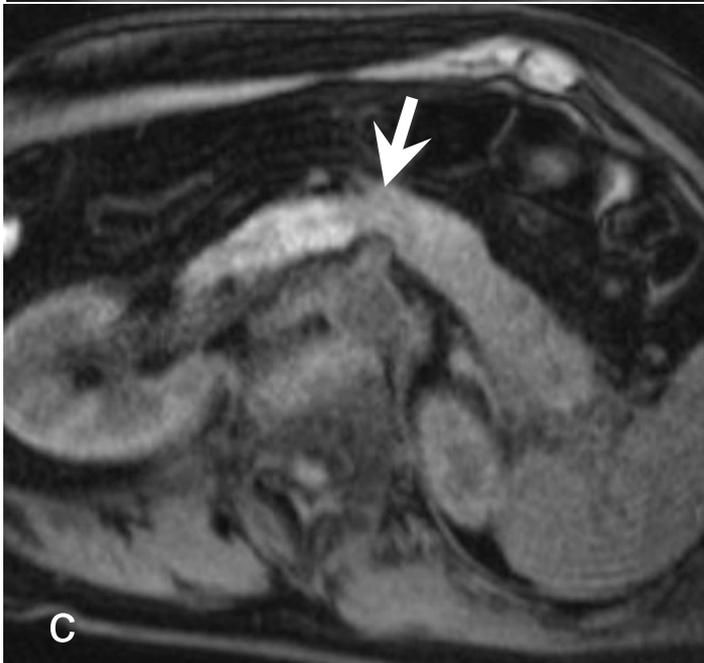
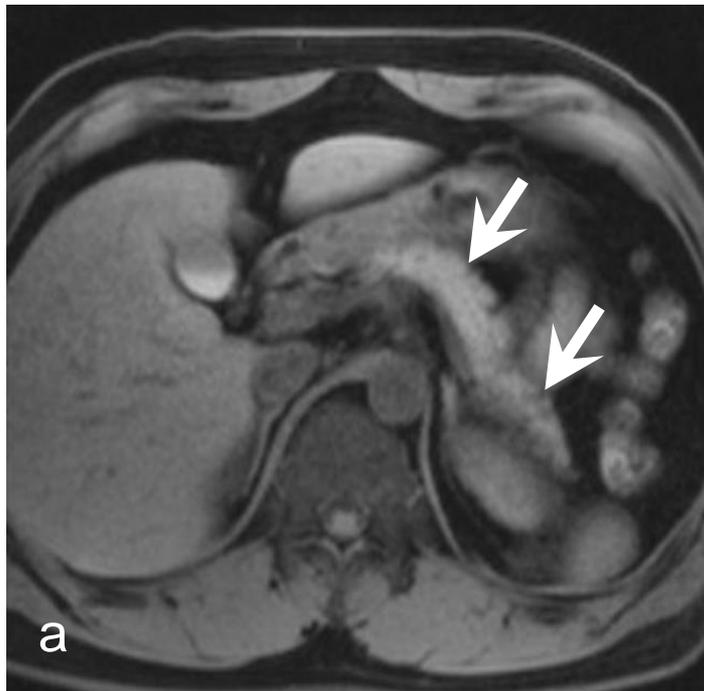


Figure 11



a



b

Figure 12



Figure 13

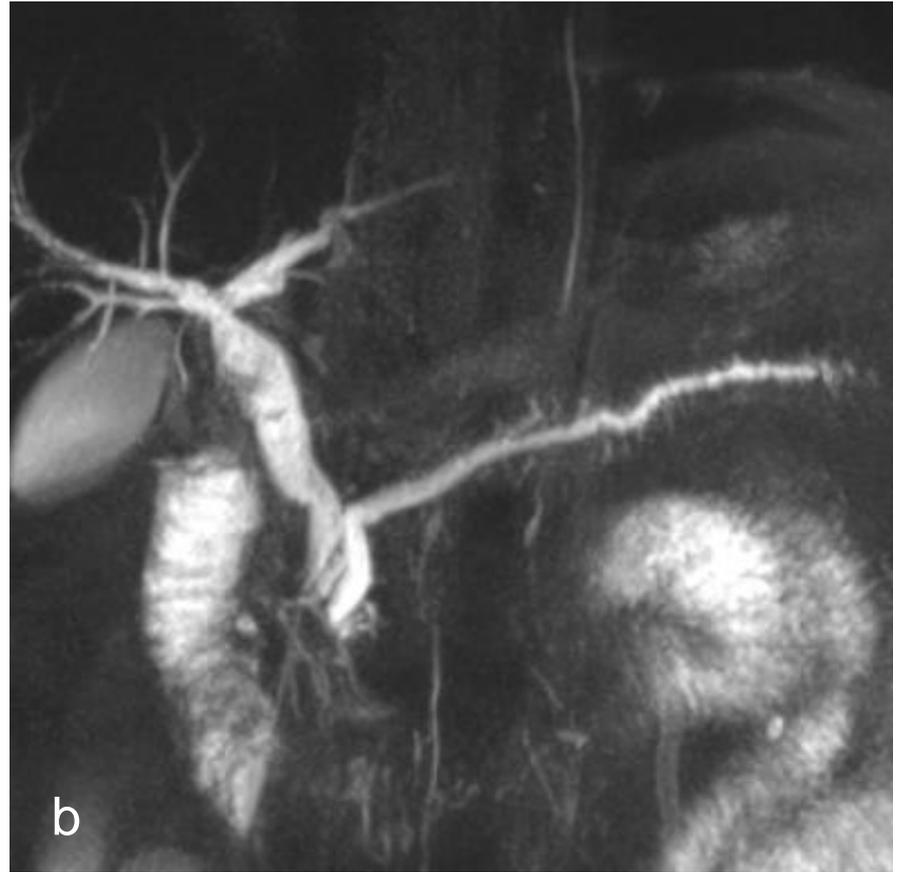
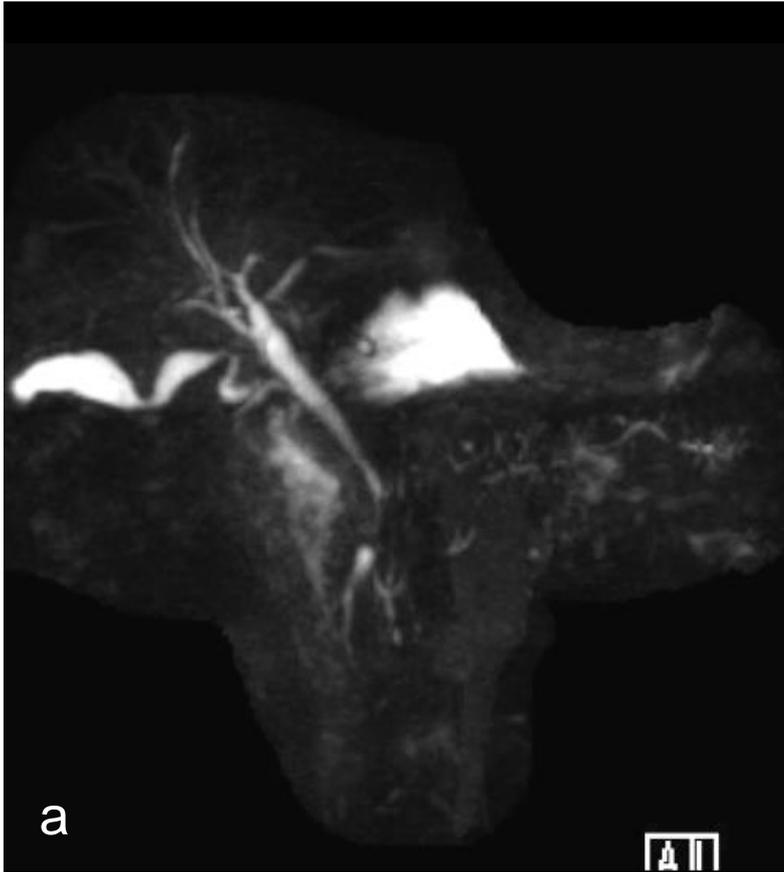


Figure 14

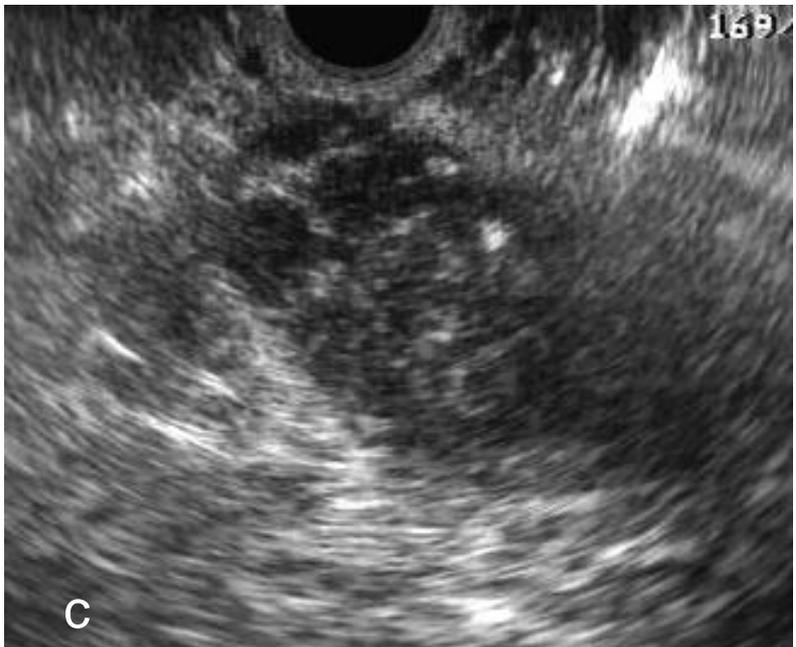
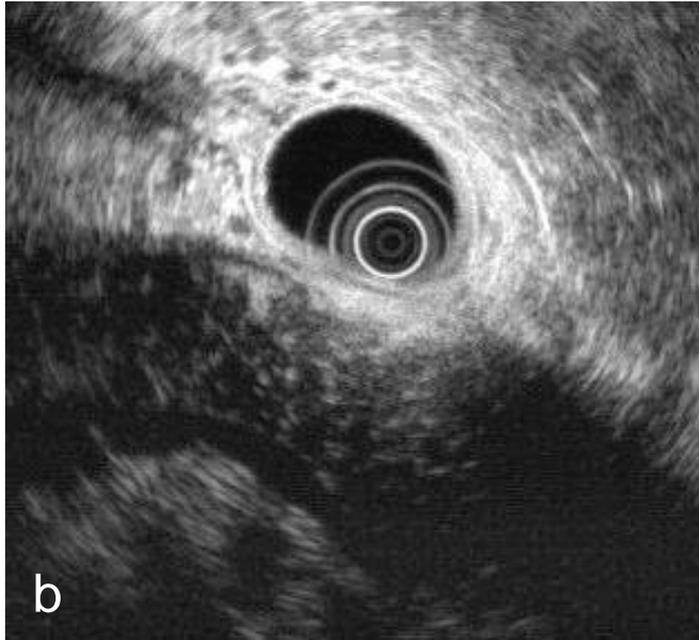
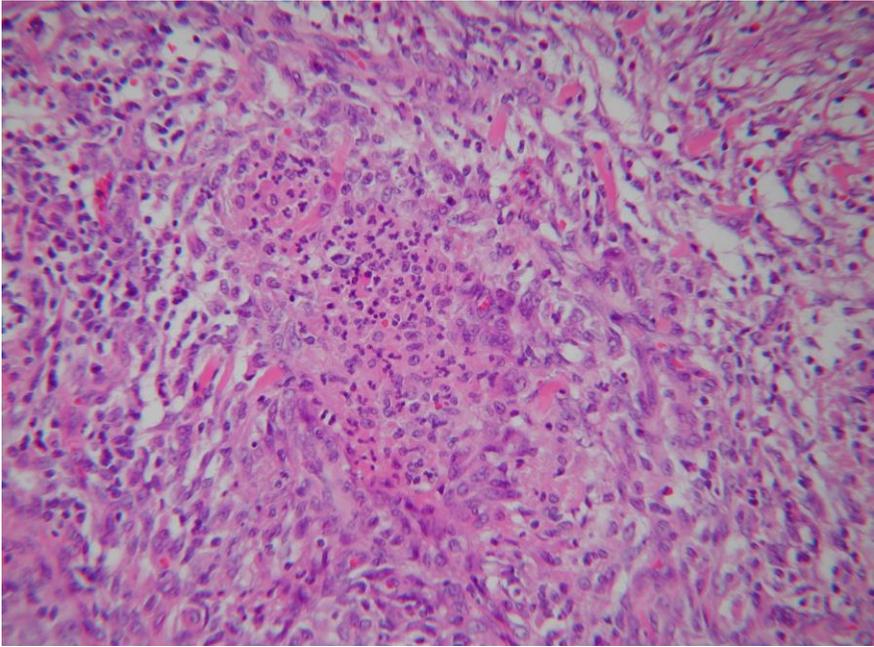
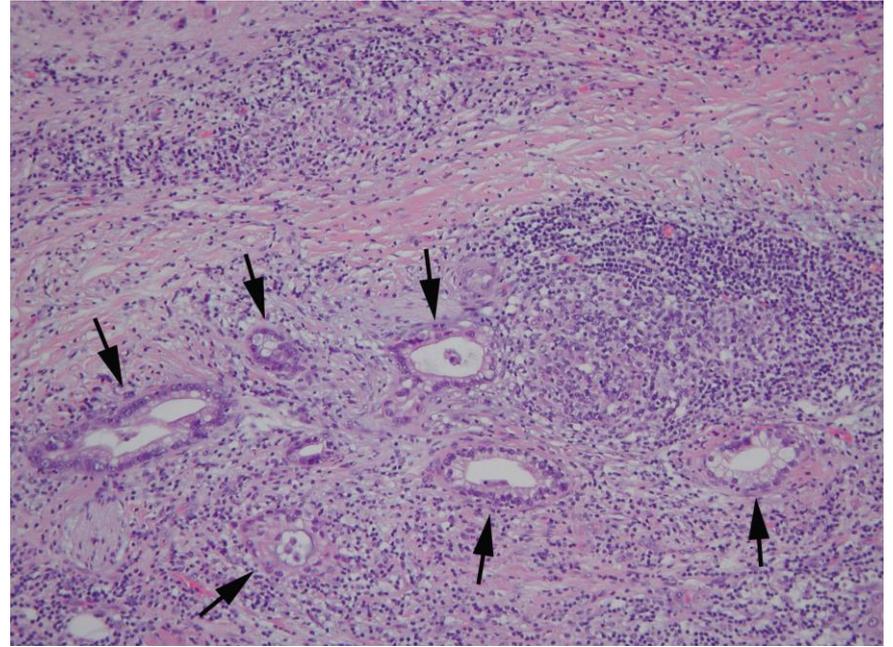


Figure 15

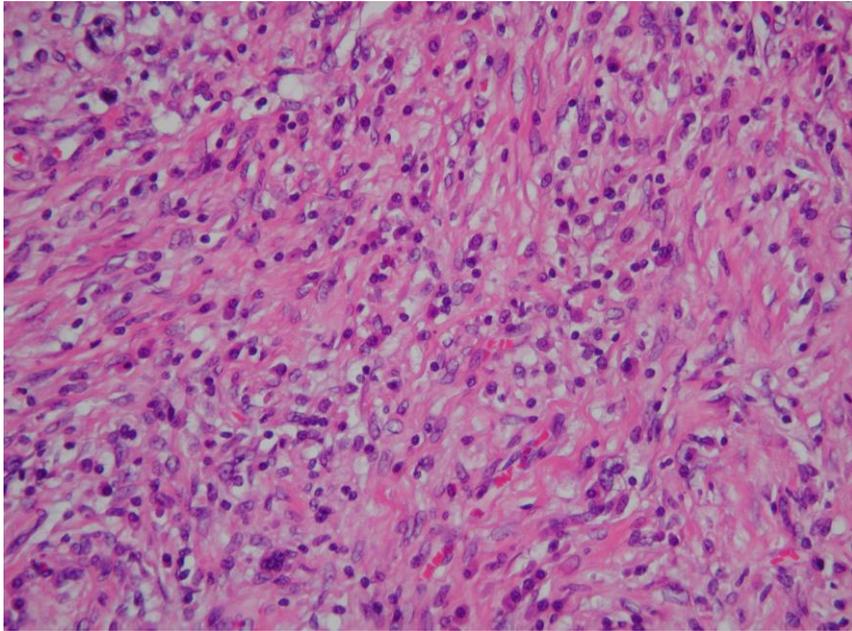


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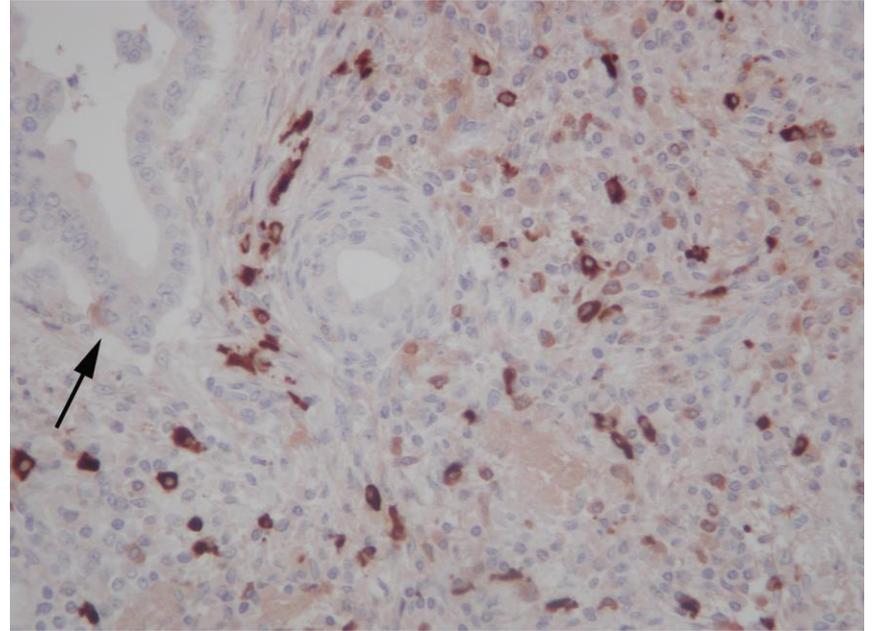


b

Figure 16



a



b

Figure 17