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Analysis of Factors Related to Gallstones in Patients with Neuroendocrine Tumors Treated with Long-Acting Somatostatin Analogues

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BACKGROUND: To evaluate gallstone disease incidence and associated factors in a series of patients treated with long-acting somatostatin analogs for neuroendocrine neoplasms.

METHODS: A prospectively-collected database of patients with a diagnosis of neuroendocrine neoplasms, treated with somatostatin analogs at our Institution between 2010 and 2018, was retrospectively analyzed. Patients’ demographics and disease characteristics were analyzed to evaluate the incidence and the factors related to biliary stone disease.

RESULTS: Eighty-three patients were included, among 60 patients with gallbladder in situ and no history of stone disease, 26 (43.3%) developed gallstones after a mean of 32.3 months (range 4–154) from treatment start. The incidence of gallstone is related to duration of receiving somatostatin analogs treatment (p < 0.05). Previous cholecystectomy was associated with a lower incidence of development of gallstones. Among 11 patients who underwent cholecystectomy before the start of SSA, 1 (9.1%) patient developed common bile duct stones during SSA therapy.

CONCLUSION: We observed a high incidence of gallstone disease in patients treated with long-acting somatostatin analogs-treated for neuroendocrine neoplasm, somatostatin analogs treatment duration is related to the occurrence of gallstones.