

# World Journal of *Clinical Cases*

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## Contents

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## EDITORIAL

- 1382 Latest updates on structure and recommendations of cardiac rehabilitation programs in chronic heart failure  
*Kourek C, Briasoulis A, Magouliotis DE, Skoularigis J, Xanthopoulos A*
- 1388 Immunoglobulin A glomerulonephropathy: A review  
*El Labban M, Surani S*

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Retrospective Study

- 1395 Serum proteins differentially expressed in gestational diabetes mellitus assessed using isobaric tag for relative and absolute quantitation proteomics  
*Cao WL, Yu CP, Zhang LL*

## Observational Study

- 1406 Effect of comprehensive nursing on the quality of life and swallowing function in individuals diagnosed with ischemic stroke  
*Hu HF, Sang YF, Xiao YQ*

## META-ANALYSIS

- 1416 Safety and effectiveness of butorphanol in epidural labor analgesia: A protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis  
*Tang GC, He M, Huang ZZ, Cheng Y*

## CASE REPORT

- 1422 Left lower lobe sleeve resection for the clear cell variant of pulmonary mucoepidermoid carcinoma: A case report  
*Yu XH, Wang WX, Yang DS, Gong LH*
- 1430 Lower extremity peripherally inserted central catheter placement ectopic to the ascending lumbar vein: A case report  
*Zhu XJ, Zhao L, Peng N, Luo JM, Liu SX*
- 1437 Effect of foot reflexology on an infant with sensorineural hearing loss: A case report  
*Lee YJ, Chen MQ, Dong J*
- 1442 Development of immature ovarian teratoma after mature teratoma in a girl with familial ovarian teratoma: A case report  
*Ju UC, Kang WD, Kim SM*

- 1448** Metastatic clear cell sarcoma of the pancreas: A rare case report  
*Liu YJ, Zou C, Wu YY*
- 1454** 3M syndrome patient with a novel mutation: A case report  
*Luo MR, Dai SM, Li Y, Wang Q, Liu H, Gao P, Liu JY, Chen J, Zhao SJ, Yin GY*
- 1461** Appendiceal intussusception complicated by adenocarcinoma of the cecum: A case report  
*Long Y, Xiang YN, Huang F, Xu L, Li XY, Zhen YH*
- 1467** Malignant triton tumor in the abdominal wall: A case report  
*Yang HJ, Kim D, Lee WS, Oh SH*
- 1474** Multilocular thymic cysts can be easily misdiagnosed as malignant tumor on computer tomography: A case report  
*Sun J, Yang QN, Guo Y, Zeng P, Ma LY, Kong LW, Zhao BY, Li CM*
- 1481** Diagnosis of poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma of the stomach by confocal laser endomicroscopy: A case report  
*Lou JX, Wu Y, Huhe M, Zhang JJ, Jia DW, Jiang ZY*
- 1487** High-grade pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia diagnosed based on changes in magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography findings: A case report  
*Furuya N, Yamaguchi A, Kato N, Sugata S, Hamada T, Mizumoto T, Tamaru Y, Kusunoki R, Kuwai T, Kouno H, Kuraoka K, Shibata Y, Tazuma S, Sudo T, Kohno H, Oka S*
- 1497** Chronic infectious unilateral giant thyroid cyst related to diabetes mellitus: A case report  
*Liu JB, Zhang SL, Jiang WL, Sun HK, Yang HC*
- 1504** Multiple thoracic and abdominal foregut duplication cysts: A case report  
*Alsinan TA, Altokhais TI*
- 1510** Advanced cervix cancer patient with chemotherapy-induced grade IV myelosuppression achieved complete remission with cadonilimab: A case report  
*Zhu R, Chen TZ, Sun MT, Zhu CR*
- 1517** Detection of 4p16.3 deletion and 11p15.5p15.4 gain in a boy by comparative genomic hybridization array: A case report  
*Kaya I*
- 1523** Eccrine porocarcinoma in the temple of an elderly woman: A case report  
*Wu ZW, Zhu WJ, Huang S, Tan Q, You C, Hu DG, Li LN*
- 1530** Analysis and monitoring of drug therapy in a patient with peptic ulcer complicated by infection: A case report  
*Gou YP, Huang Y, Chen L, Zheng W, Zheng YH*
- 1536** Primary gastroduodenal tuberculosis presenting as gastric outlet obstruction: A case report and review of literature  
*Ali AM, Mohamed YG, Mohamud AA, Mohamed AN, Ahmed MR, Abdullahi IM, Saydam T*

- 1544**    Clinical manifestations and the prenatal diagnosis of trisomy 7 mosaicism: Two case reports

*Hou F, Li Y, Jin H*

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The primary aim of *World Journal of Clinical Cases* (WJCC, *World J Clin Cases*) is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of clinical medicine with a platform to publish high-quality clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

WJCC mainly publishes articles reporting research results and findings obtained in the field of clinical medicine and covering a wide range of topics, including case control studies, retrospective cohort studies, retrospective studies, clinical trials studies, observational studies, prospective studies, randomized controlled trials, randomized clinical trials, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, and case reports.

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## Multiple thoracic and abdominal foregut duplication cysts: A case report

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### Abstract

#### BACKGROUND

Congenital enteric duplication cysts are tubular or cystic structures that normally lie alongside the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Enteric duplication cysts are typically solitary lesions that occur anywhere near the GI tract from the neck to the rectum, but having multiple duplication cysts is rare, and presentation within the pancreas is extremely rare.

#### CASE SUMMARY

We herein demonstrate a case of esophageal, gastric, and gastric-type duplication cyst of the pancreas in a seventeen-month-old girl who presented with failure to thrive, abdominal pain, vomiting, hematemesis, and melena since the age of three months. The cysts were excised by thoracoscopy and laparoscopy in the same setting. To our knowledge, no such case has been published.

#### CONCLUSION

Enteric duplications can occur throughout the entire alimentary tract. When they occur in the pancreas, they present a formidable challenge in both diagnosis and treatment. Due to the risk of complications and malignant transformation, surgical removal is the recommended treatment of all duplication cysts.

**Key Words:** Congenital; Duplication cyst; Foregut duplication; Gastric duplication; Pancreas; Case report

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**Core Tip:** Gastrointestinal duplications are infrequent developmental abnormalities that can manifest diversely, including variations in presentation, size, location, and symptoms. The occurrence of multiple enteric duplication cysts is uncommon, and their presence within the pancreas is exceptionally rare. This case evolved of esophageal, gastric, and gastric-type duplication cyst of the pancreas in a 17-month-old girl who was managed surgically by thoracoscopy and laparoscopy in the same setting.

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## INTRODUCTION

Gastrointestinal (GI) duplications are infrequent developmental abnormalities that can manifest diversely, including variations in presentation, size, location, and symptoms[1]. Initially referred to as GI duplications, these malformations were first introduced by Ladd[2]. Gastric duplication cysts (GDCs) represent 2%-7% of all alimentary tract duplications [3]. The clinical presentation of GDCs depends on their size and position[4]. GDCs are commonly situated along the greater curvature of the stomach and typically lack any connection with the gastric lumen[3]. This study presents a rare case of multiple foregut duplication cysts.

## CASE PRESENTATION

### Chief complaints

A 17-month-old girl was admitted for recurrent abdominal pain and vomiting, followed by hematemesis and melena since she was 3 months old.

### History of present illness

On admission, she was afebrile. On physical examination, she had a weight of 9 kg. She was pale but not jaundiced.

### History of past illness

Unremarkable.

### Personal and family history

No remarkable family history and no similar history in the family.

### Physical examination

The child's weight was 9 kg (below 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for age). She was pale but not jaundiced. The rest of the examination was unremarkable.

### Laboratory examinations

The blood test showed a picture of anemia with a hemoglobin level of 6.6 g/dL. Her liver and pancreatic enzymes were normal.

### Imaging examinations

Imaging studies revealed a cystic mass on the mid-esophagus that was not communicated with the esophagus (Figure 1). Another mass located at the diaphragm hiatus with communication with the fundus of the stomach (Figure 2).

## MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERT CONSULTATION

The child underwent thoracoscopy and excision of the esophageal cyst, which was not communicating with the esophagus, then laparoscopy and excision of the gastric fundal cyst, which was communicating with the stomach. After the excision of the gastric fundal cyst, a diagnostic laparoscopy was done to rule out other cysts.

The bowel was run from the duodenojejunal junction to the rectum and an incidental cyst was found originating from the body of the pancreas with no attachment to the stomach (Figure 3).

Upon microscopic examination, esophageal and gastric fundal lesions were bronchogenic-type cysts. Low power of the pancreatic cyst showed all the layers of a normal stomach namely, mucosa, submucosa, and muscularis propria. The mucosa composition primarily exhibited gastric body characteristics, encompassing parietal, chief, and mucus cells





Figure 1 Computed tomography scan of the chest revealed a cystic lesion beside the oesophagus.

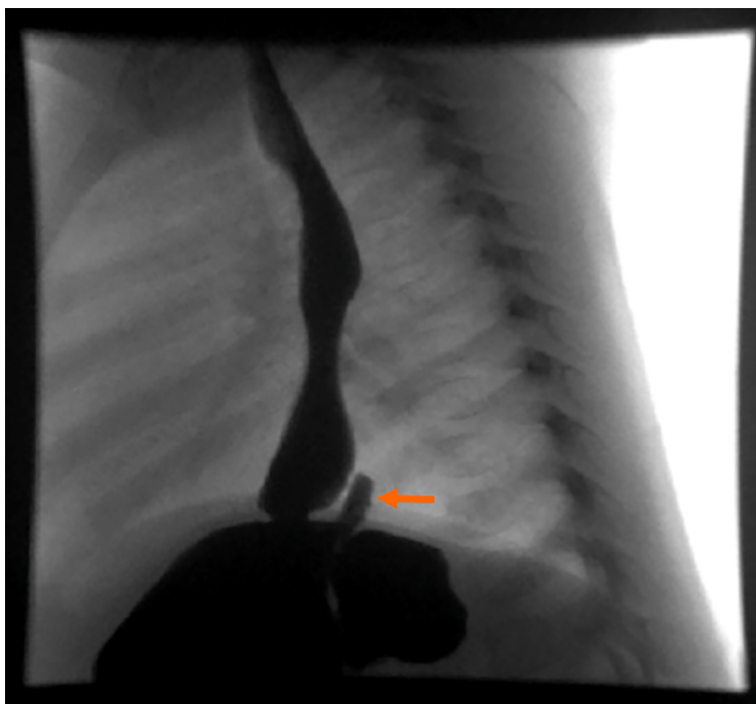


Figure 2 Contrast meal study showing a communicating gastric fundal lesion.

(Figure 4). The findings were consistent with gastric duplication cyst.

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## FINAL DIAGNOSIS

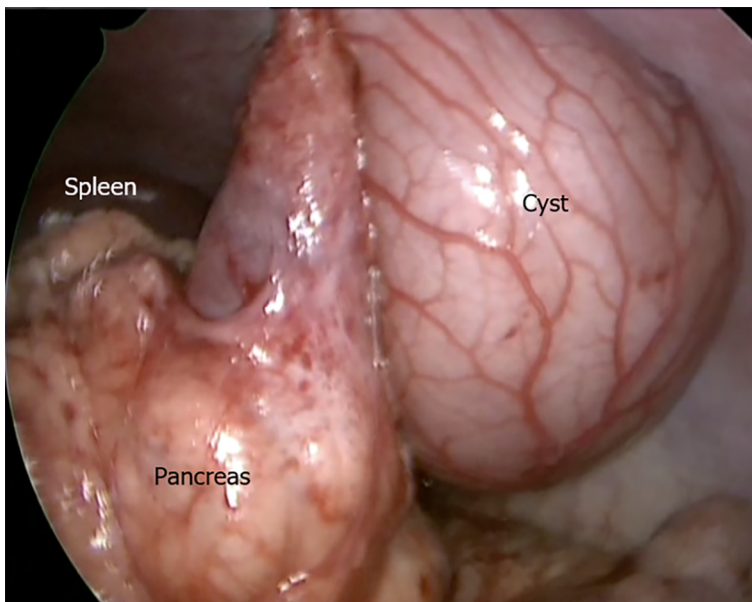
The findings were consistent with GDC. The child had an uneventful post-operative course.

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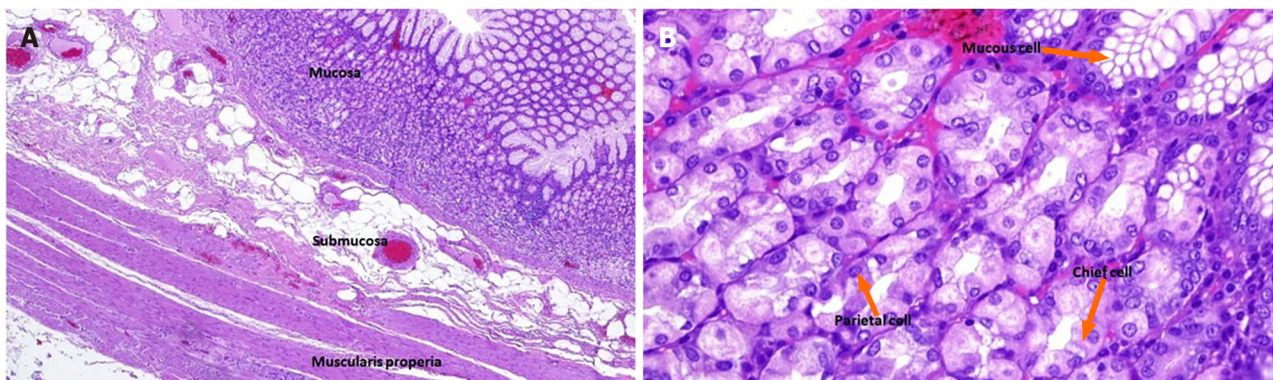
## TREATMENT

Surgical excision of the cyst.





**Figure 3** Intra-operative view of the pancreas with the cyst.



**Figure 4** Microscopic examination confirmed the gastric origin of the duplication cysts. A: The cyst wall consist of all layers of gastric body namely mucosa, submucosa and muscularis propria [hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stain, original magnification  $\times 40$ ]; B: Higher power of mucosa reveals three types of cells, mucous cells, chief cells, and parietal cells (H&E stain, original magnification  $\times 200$ ).

## OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

She gained weight and reached 13.5 kg at two years old (at 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for age). Her weight remained within the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for age, and the resolution of her symptoms was confirmed during the follow-up five years later.

## DISCUSSION

GI duplications are relatively rare abnormalities that can occur at various locations along the digestive system, ranging from the mouth to the rectum. The most common site for these duplications is the ileum. They have been referred to by different names, including enterocystomas, enterogenous cysts, supernumerary accessory organs, ileum duplex, giant diverticula, and unusual Meckel's diverticula. Among all types of duplications, GDCs are the least frequently encountered, accounting for approximately 2%-7% of GI duplications. They typically present with symptoms such as GI obstruction, ulceration, and painless bleeding, often observed in early childhood. GDCs are commonly situated along the greater curvature of the stomach and typically lack any connection with the gastric lumen[5].

Duplications are frequently diagnosed incidentally, although most patients experience a combination of pain and obstructive symptoms. These symptoms can arise from either the distention of the duplication itself or the compression of neighboring organs and blood vessels. Obstructive manifestations of gastric duplications often include postprandial epigastric pain, discomfort, nausea, vomiting, and the presence of an abdominal mass. Rare presentations may include hematemesis, GI bleeding, recurrent pancreatitis, and perforation leading to peritonitis[6,7]. In our case, the patient presented with abdominal pain, vomiting, and GI bleeding. Malignancies originating from duplication cysts often tend to

be diagnosed at advanced stages due to their atypical symptoms and challenging diagnostic processes[3].

Pancreatic-associated enteric duplications are exceptionally rare and can exhibit distinct clinical characteristics, including severe pancreatitis. These cysts present unique surgical complexities, and their diagnosis can be challenging, often leading to confusion with pancreatic pseudocysts or neoplasms. Diagnostic imaging techniques such as abdominal ultrasound, contrast GI studies, computed tomography scans, and magnetic resonance imaging play a crucial role in identifying these cysts. In our case, the cyst was unexpectedly discovered during surgery and was not detected through radiological examinations.

The necessary macroscopic and microscopic criteria for diagnosing a GDC are as follows: (1) The cyst's wall is connected to the stomach wall; (2) the cyst is enveloped by smooth muscle that seamlessly transitions into the stomach's muscle layer; and (3) the cyst wall is lined with epithelium derived from gastric or other types of GI mucosa. In our current cases, these criteria were met, effectively ruling out alternative diagnoses[8].

Surgical removal is the recommended treatment for all duplication cysts due to the risk of complications and potential malignant transformation. The approach depends on the location of the cyst, its relation to adjacent organs and vessels [5]. Holcomb *et al*[9], provided guidelines for managing duplication cysts based on factors such as the patient's age and condition, lesion location, communication with the intestinal lumen, and the extent of the anatomical involvement. During cyst excision, it is crucial to prioritize the protection of vital structures like bile ducts and vessels. Non-communicating GDCs are typically treated by completely removing the cyst and resecting the shared wall between the stomach and the duplication cyst. Asymptomatic communicating GDCs generally do not require intervention if both gastric lumens are open[10].

## CONCLUSION

Enteric duplications occur throughout the entire alimentary tract. Cases involving the pancreas are challenging in terms of diagnosis and treatment. Due to the risk of complications and malignant transformation, surgical removal is the recommended treatment for all duplication cysts.

## FOOTNOTES

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