

Pathogenesis and Morphological Alterations in Endometriosis

Eriselda Kurushi¹, Mehdi Alimehmeti², Majlinda Ikonimi¹

¹ University Hospital Center "Mother Teresa" QSUT, Tirana, Albania,

² Service of Pathological Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Medicine, Tirana

Abstract

Background: Endometriosis is a gynecological pathology found predominantly in reproductive age women suffering from infertility problems. Nevertheless, this chronic condition may develop in postmenopausal females, as well as in men. The complexity of the pathology coupled with the diversity of focal morphological alterations has made the clinical presentation of this disease wide and multifactorial. The histopathological examination may represent a key feature for the diagnosis of endometriosis. However, it is worth to note that many architectural and cytological alterations could make difficult a differential diagnosis of the pathology.

Aims: The purpose of our study was to evaluate histopathological features and morphological alterations in diagnosed patients with pelvic and extrapelvic endometriosis in order to provide an accurate approach for differential diagnosis.

Methods: Our research group performed a 10-year retrospective study, yielding proven cases diagnosed with endometriosis. Data on age, location, clinical diagnosis, prevalence of comorbid diseases, and macro or microscopic changes were recorded and statistically evaluated for a clinical orientation to differential diagnosis.

Results and Conclusions: Our results found that endometriosis is a condition that affects a significant percentage of women in their reproductive age, and is manifested more frequently with pelvic locations compared to extrapelvic ones. The pathological diagnosis does not always correlate with clinical outcomes, due to extensive histopathological alterations that derive from different biological mechanisms of the disease, hormonal alterations (hemorrhage, epithelial glandular hyperplasia, etc.), inflammation and fibrosis, metaplasia and dysplasia.

Keywords: endometriosis, extrapelvic, pathological alterations