

Endocrine cells distribution pattern in the proximal small intestine of patients submitted to pancreaticoduodenectomy

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The best surgical technique for pancreatic anastomosis after pancreaticoduodenectomy (PD) is still debate. It is estimated that the atrophy of the pancreatic remnant is the common evolution after one year after surgical PD [1]. This may also be a consequence of deregulation of pancreatic neurohumoral stimulatory factors after duodenal removal. After PD, in order to maintain the pancreatic exocrine function, has been proposed the reconstruction with two jejunal loops [2]: the first jejunal loop to the stomach, and the second jejunal loop to the pancreatic stump (end-to-end pancreatic jejunostomy), and following a hepatic jejunostomy. At the end, the intestinal continuity is restored by an entero-entero anastomosis [3]. Gastric preservation might favour an adequate weight gain after surgery due to higher caloric intake and normal acid secretion acts as a physiologic stimulus to promote the secretion of secretin and cholecystokinin (CCK). Our aims were to investigate the distribution pattern of serotonin-, secretin- and CCK cells in proximal small intestine. Specimens from duodenal, first and second jejunal loop taking from seven male patients submitted to PD were collected and immunohistochemical reaction and morphometrical analysis were performed. We found a general decrease of enteroendocrine cells in the second jejunal loop with a significant reduction of CCK-cells. So after removal of the duodenal source of secretin and CCK, preservation of the first jejunal loop that comes anastomized to the stomach, restores the alimentary circuit and maintain the physiological jejunal secretion of secretin and CCK subsequent to alimentary transit and can compensate (at least in part) for the abolished duodenal hormonal release. This operative procedure may preserve the exocrine and endocrine pancreatic secretion through the maintenance of physiological stimuli.

References

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Keywords

Duodenum, jejunum, enteroendocrine cells, CCK, secretin, serotonin.