

**RISK FACTORS OF MALIGNANCY IN TROPICAL CHRONIC CALCIFIC
PANCREATITIS – RETROSPECTIVE STUDY.**

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Background: Tropical chronic calcific pancreatitis (CCP) is a known risk factor of pancreatic malignancy. However there are no strict criteria to determine preoperatively the risk of malignancy in patients undergoing drainage procedure for CCP. This is reflected as post operative surprise finding of malignancy on histopathology, resulting in mismanagement of such patients. Hence the need for this study – to determine such predictors preoperatively.

Methods: 74 patients with history of tropical CCP who underwent surgery either modified Whipple's or Frey's procedure, during the period between June 2009 and July 2013 were retrospectively studied. The post operative histopathology reports were analyzed with respect to preoperative clinical, biochemical and radiological findings of these patients.

Results: Of the 74 patients operated, 19 (25.7%) were found to have malignancy on histopathology. Mean age in the benign group was 39.7 years while in the malignant group was 46.8 years ($p < 0.05$). History of jaundice, recent onset of pain and significant weight loss were found to statistically significant for malignancy. Conjugated bilirubin >0.84 mg/dL, CA 19-9 >124 IU and main pancreatic duct (MPD) dilated > 10.4 mm were found to have sensitivity $>50\%$ and specificity $>90\%$ for malignancy.

Conclusions: The predictive factors of malignancy were found to be increasing age, presence of jaundice, significant weight loss on history, raised bilirubin, CA 19-9 and dilated MPD on investigations. Scoring system based on these factors would predict the risk of malignancy.