



# Renal Mucinous Tubular and Spindle Cell Carcinoma: A Case Report

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## Abstract

Tubular-mucinous and spindle cell carcinoma was first described in 1998 by Qun He. Representing less than 1% of renal tumors, it was included in the latest 2004 WHO classification of kidney tumors as a separate entity. This tumor has a relatively good patient prognosis when compared with other malignant renal tumors. Through this clinical case, we address the epidemiological, diagnostic, histological, and therapeutic aspects of tubule-mucinous and spindle cell carcinoma of the kidney.

**Keywords:** Mucinous tubular and spindle cell carcinoma; Kidney; Computed tomography; Partial nephrectomy

## Introduction

Tubular-mucinous and spindle cell carcinoma of the kidney is a rare entity first described in 1998 by Qun He [1]. It was included in the latest 2004 WHO classification of kidney tumors as a separate entity. This tumor has a relatively good patient prognosis when compared with other malignant renal tumors. Through this clinical case, we address the epidemiological, diagnostic, histological, and therapeutic aspects of tubule-mucinous and spindle-shaped carcinoma of the kidney.

## Case Presentation

A 39 years old, old smoker, with no medical history, presented for urology consultation for exploration of severe right low back pain dating back one year. Clinical examination revealed a tender mass on the right flank giving lumbar contact. The computed tomography confirms the presence of an upper-right polar lesion process with a tissue density measuring 7 cm × 8 cm on the axial plane with a large axis of 8 cm is enhanced in a heterogeneous manner after injection of the contrast product (Figure 1, 2). The patient underwent an upper right polar heminephrectomy by subcostal approach. Macroscopically, it is a well-defined polar parenchymal mass of 7 cm × 8 cm × 7 cm encapsulated with a friable beige appearance. Histological examination was in favor of a fusiform tubular-mucinous and spindle cell carcinoma without capsular or hilar invasion (Figure 3). Immunohistochemically staining revealed that the tumor cells were diffusely positive of CK7, AMACR, EMA, and E-cadhérine (Figure 4) but the tumoral cells were CD10-negative (Figure 5). The patient was classified at intermediate progressive risk according to the US (UCLA integrated staging system) prognostic system (TNM stage: T2a N0 M0, Fuhrman grade: 2, ECOG performance status =0), thus justifying a postoperative monitoring protocol by clinical examination, Thoraco-abdominal CT and creatinine clearance according to the MDRD (Modification of Diet in Renal

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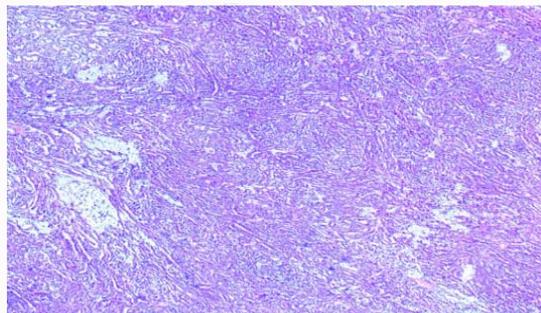
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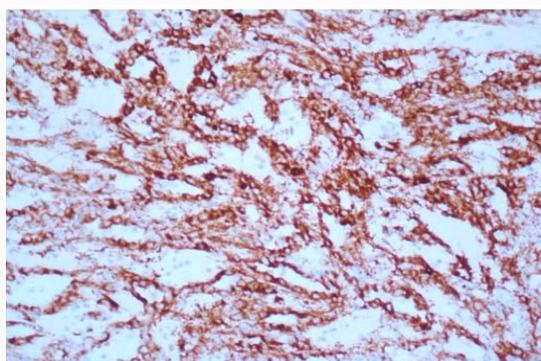
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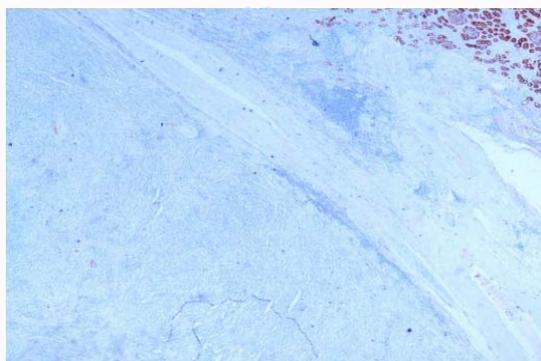
Figure 1 and 2: Contrast enhanced abdominal CT scan. It revealed a tumor on the superior pole of the kidney.



**Figure 3:** Carcinomatous proliferation made up of a double tubular and spindle-shaped contingent.



**Figure 4:** AMACR expression: IHC x200.



**Figure 5:** Absence of expression of CD10, IHC x20.

Disease) formula, every 6 months for 3 years then every year for 2 years then every 5 years. After a follow-up of 22 months, the evolution is still favorable, without local or contralateral recurrence or secondary localization and its creatinine clearance calculated by the MDRD formula was 82 ml/min.

## Discussion

Tubular-mucinous and spindle-shaped carcinoma first described in 1998 by Qun He [1]. Representing less than 1% of renal tumors [2]. Typically, the majority of patients present with asymptomatic masses, often found incidentally by ultrasound. In a few cases, the patient may present with flank pain or hematuria. This entity is distinguished by its female predominance (sex ratio 1/3), its favorable prognosis, its medullary location, and its particular morphology which associates a tubular and spindle-shaped architecture within a distinctly myxoid stroma [3,4]. The spindle-shaped and tubular contingents vary in

abundance from case to case, but always express a low nuclear grade [5]. These tumors express both distal nephron markers (EMA, CK19, CK7, E-cadherin) and proximal tube markers (RCC Ma, AMACR and CD15) [3,4]. It is therefore still difficult at this time to propose a histogenesis of these tumors. Cytogenetic abnormalities involving a variable number of chromosomes have recently been identified, but a loss of the 3p chromosome-specific to clear cell carcinomas has never been demonstrated [5]. Papillary carcinoma of the kidney in its compact variant is considered to be the main differential diagnosis of CTMF because it can show myxoid stroma [2,5]. This histological and immunohistochemical similarity has led some authors to consider tubule mucinous carcinoma as a variant of type 1 papillary carcinoma [4]. MRI appears to be more effective than CT in suggesting the nature of this histologic pattern. However, since papillary carcinoma is relatively homogeneous, the presence of heterogeneity on CT in a hypovascular system may be suggestive of CTMF, which justifies complement by MRI which is characterized by T2 hyper signal [6]. The regular peripheral delineation and the absence of desmoplastic stroma make it possible to rule out carcinoma of the collecting tubes [6]. Tubular-mucinous carcinoma presents an indolent clinical course, only two cases presented with metastasis [7]. Metastasis usually occurs in tumors characterized by sarcomatoid transformation. Treatment of tubular-mucinous spindle Cell Carcinoma of The Kidney (CTMF) is based on enucleation-resection, partial or total nephrectomy in patients with localized tumors. For metastatic tumors, there is no consensus except one case of metastatic CTMF treated with sunitinib has been documented [8].

## Conclusion

Tubular-mucinous and spindle cell carcinoma of the kidney is a rare pathological entity requiring cytogenetic and immunohistochemical studies as well as more clinical experience to better characterize these tumors and clarify their histogenesis.

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