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Understanding tumoral markers in patients with pancreatic cancer

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The pancreatic cancer is a disease with exponentially increased incidence, especially over the last decades, being the sixth or even fifth cause of death by cancer in most of the modern societies. Moreover, it is estimated that the majority of the patients with this disease are presenting to the doctor in the advanced and unresectable stages. Thus, the only way of establishing a diagnosis in the early stage, potentially curable, would be a rigorous anamnesis that would reveal the early symptoms to 'send' the patient to the doctor in the early stage. In this way, all hopes are turning to early diagnosis and/or the discovery of an effective therapeutic agent. Thus, in the present report we will be interested in presenting the relevance for the serum determination of some tumoral markers, such as CA19-9 (carbohydrate antigen 19-9) and CEA (carcinoembryonic antigen) in our selected patients with pancreatic cancer. In this way, our results are showing the relevance in determining these specific tumoral markers, especially as predictors for recurrences after pancreatic neoplasm surgery, since the determination of the serum level of CA 19-9 seem to be relevant in the cases when the antigen level drops immediately after the surgery, then increases progressively, highlighting the emergence of recurrence.

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