

Incidentally discovered gallbladder cancer - Case report

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INTRODUCTION

- **Gallbladder cancer** (GBC) is the **fifth** most common cancer of the gastrointestinal tract and the most common cancer of the biliary tract.
- The strongest risk factor of gallbladder cancer is a history of **cholelithiasis**, and the risk increases with gallstone size, chronicity, and burden of symptoms.
- The current hypothesis establishes that **chronic inflammation** of the bile duct tissue accumulates successive **genomic mutations** that lead to **malignant transformation**.

CLINICAL CASE

- We report a case of a 54-year-old woman with a BMI of 48 and asymptomatic cholelithiasis, submitted to **Roux-en-Y laparoscopic gastric bypass and cholecystectomy**.
- The gallbladder's histology revealed chronic cholecystitis with gallstones and **intraepithelial malignant foci with carcinoma in situ (FIG. 1 and 2)**. The cystic duct didn't have lesions, there was no vascular or neural invasion, and the **surgical margins were free**.

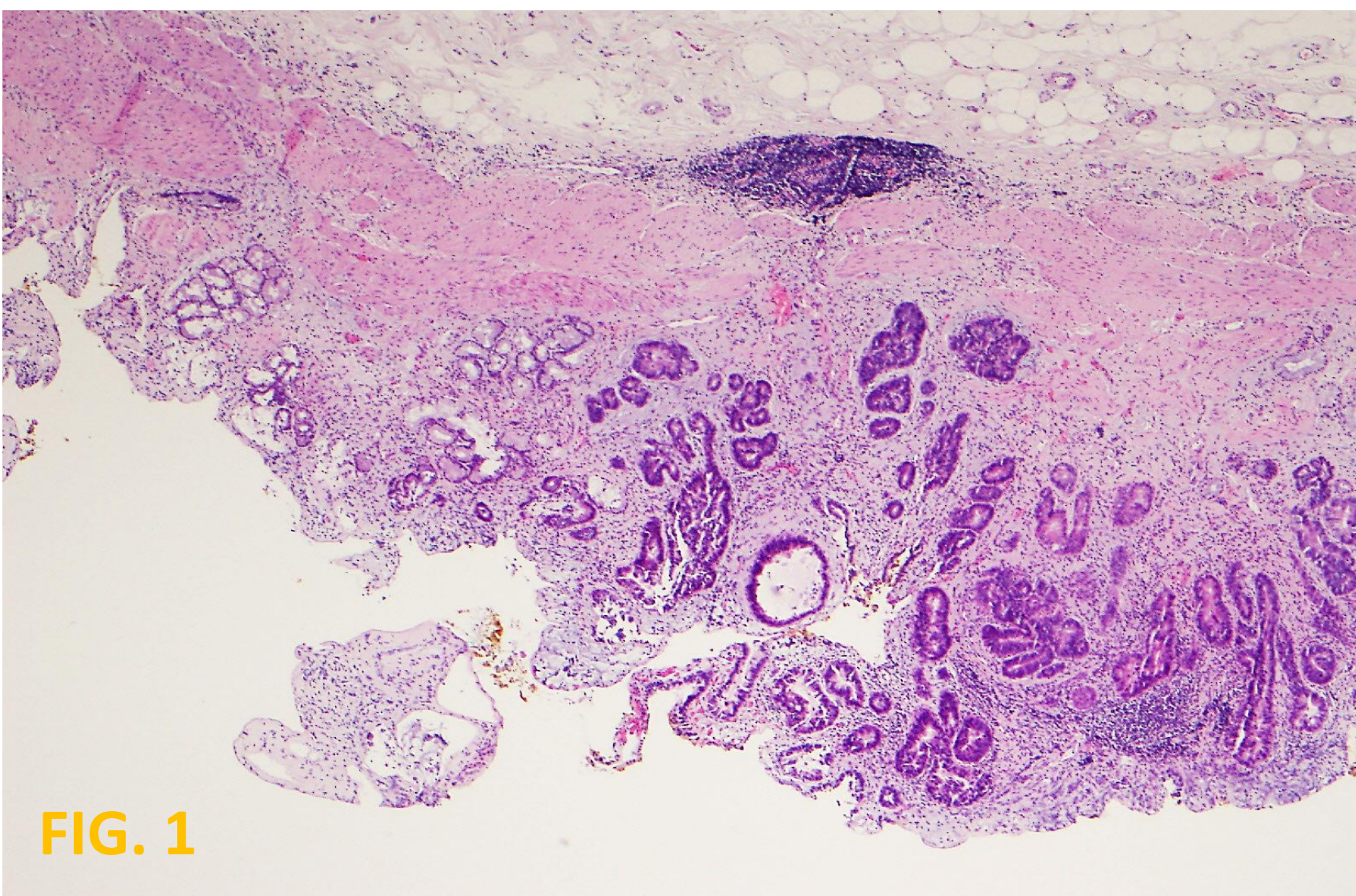


FIG. 1 – High-grade dysplasia on hematoxylin eosin

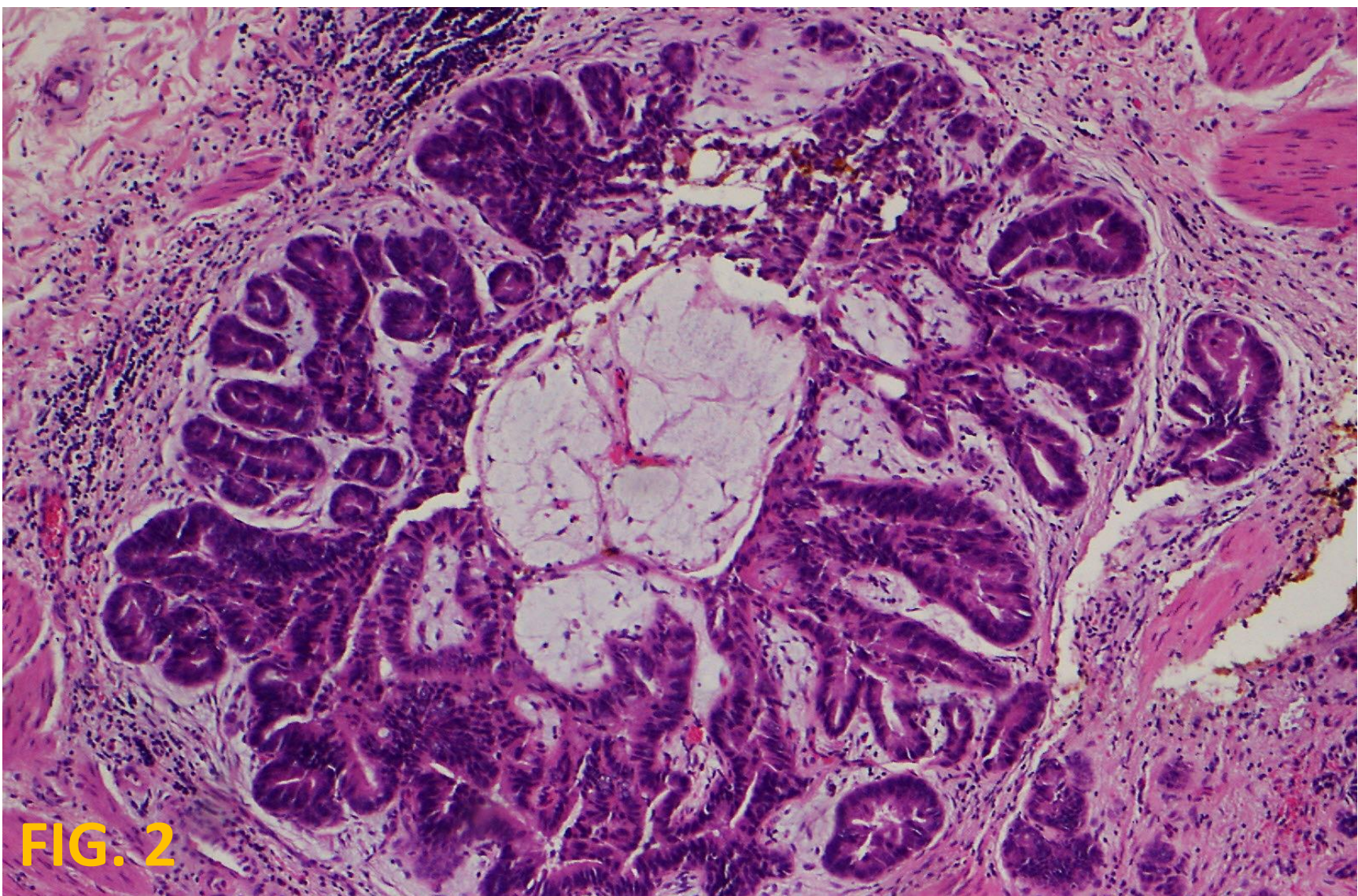


FIG. 2 – Gallbladder carcinoma in situ on hematoxylin eosin

DISCUSSION

- Incidentally discovered gallbladder cancer (IGBC) is defined as the gallbladder cancer diagnosed during or after the cholecystectomy done for unsuspected benign gallbladder disease.
- **Obesity** has been independently associated with gallbladder cancer, being the risk of GBC **1.6 times higher** in people with obesity.
- Majority of GBC patients have associated gallstones. With the advent of ultrasonography, more patients are being diagnosed with gallstones and are being subjected to cholecystectomy.
- **IGBC is found in 0.2–2.9 % of all cholecystectomies done for gallstone disease**. It represents 27–41 % of all GBC.
- Patients with IGBC having **Tis and T1a stage**, with **negative** cystic duct margin can be treated by simple **cholecystectomy alone**.