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## SURGICAL IMAGES

# Circumportal pancreas



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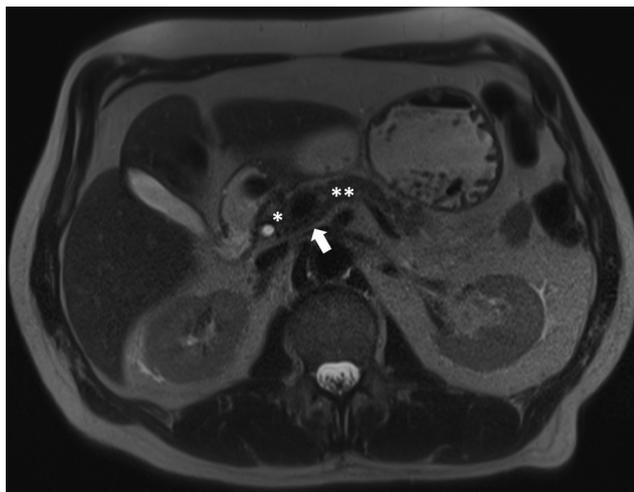
**Summary** The circumportal pancreas (CPP) is a normal though rare anatomical variant of the pancreas resulting from fusion of ventral and dorsal pancreatic buds during embryogenesis. Preoperative imaging in a 69-year-old man displayed the presence of a CPP completely encasing the portal vein. For pancreatic resection, missing a CPP is associated with a higher risk of postoperative complications.

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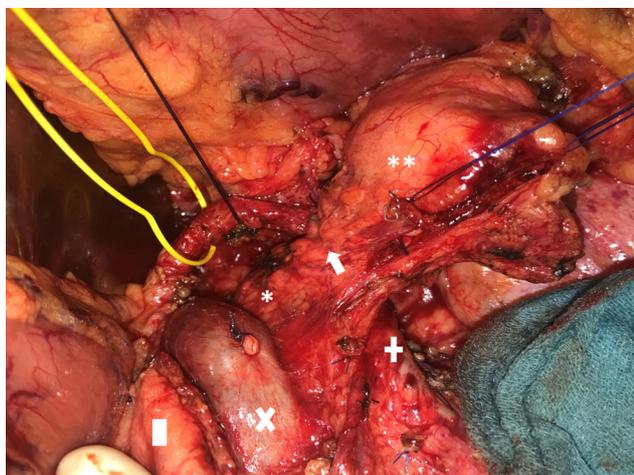
A 69-year-old man with a 20 mm resectable adenocarcinoma of the pancreatic body was prepared for surgery. Preoperative magnetic resonance imaging showed that the portal vein was entirely encased within the pancreatic parenchyma (Fig. 1). After resection of the pancreatic isthmus during pancreaticosplenectomy, the presence of a circumportal pancreas (CPP) was confirmed by the existence of a bridge connecting the dorsal pancreatic parenchyma and the uncus (Fig. 2). CPP has been described as a hypertrophic uncus surrounding the upper mesenteric vessels [1]. CCP is common in swine and arises from a variation of normal rotation of the pancreas associated with fusion of the dorsal and ventral pancreatic buds during the seventh week of embryogenesis [2]. Surgeons must be aware of this normal anatomical variant of the pancreas. Missing a CPP during pancreatectomy can be a source of chronic pancreatic fistulae. During left pancreatectomy, two-line resection (anterior and posterior to the portal vein) is required. For pancreaticoduodenectomy, the resection line passes through the body of the pancreas and not the isthmus to ensure complete resection of the bridge behind the portal vein [2].

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**Figure 1.** Magnetic resonance imaging showing the portal vein encased in the pancreatic parenchyma (\*) = ventral portion of the pancreas; (†) = pancreatic bridge; (\*\*) = dorsal portion of the pancreas.



**Figure 2.** Intraoperative view after stapling the pancreatic isthmus (□) showing the bridge (†) between the dorsal (\*\*) and the ventral (\*) portions of the pancreas; (X) = portal vein; (+) = superior mesenteric artery.

## Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

## References

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