

Summary

The embryonal remnants are special anatomical structures without any function, and persist of these structures often lead complications. Because these remnants are usually originated from some embryonal duct, such as omphaloenteric duct, thyreoglossal duct, mesonephric or paramesonephric duct, primitive streak, median umbilical cord, the persistence of them result in the development of fistulas, sinuses, cysts or in rare cases, solid masses. To diagnosis of these problems are difficult, because in the most cases these are appearing only in childhood and we can not recognize them immediately after the birth. However, the late diagnosis and treatment often leads to malignant transformation in adults, therefore the early diagnosis and treatment of these persistent structures is very important. The suggested treatment is the surgical excision. We aimed to determine the incidence of embryonal remnants in the last 10 years between the patients of Department of Pediatrics, Medical and Health Science Center, University of Debrecen, and to highlight the rarest signs and appearance of these structures. Reviewing the medical literature, and compare it to our cases, we found a lot of similarities in the incidence and appearance of different types of persisting embryonal remnants. However, we have to point out the rare symptom of second branchial cleft remnants, the halitosis, which can be the earlier sign of the second branchial cleft fistula and we described this firstly in the literature. It is also important to highlight the special form of pulmonary sequestration that is the extralobary sequestration, which is an uncommon type of the bronchopulmonary foregut malformations, and gives serious differential diagnostic problems. However, in contrast with other persisting embryonal remnants, it seems that the appendix testis, which is the remnant of paramesonephric (Müllerian) duct, is not an unnecessary structure. Our epidemiologic results with different types of histological experience suggest that androgen receptor positive appendix testis may be one of the physiological requirements of the process of testicular descent. The knowledge of the physiological role of appendix testis requires further investigative work.