Objective: This collection of illustrations clarifies conflicts in the debate on the need for biopsy of endometriosis.  

Conclusions: Psammoma bodies and endosalpingiosis are generally clear. Their gross appearance can be confused with endometriosis. These are associated with positive chlamydia trachomatis IgG antibody.

Discussion

When dark, scarred, puckered, pigmented or mixed, color endometriosis is seen on first laparoscopy, excision can be therapeutic. But biopsy may not be needed for diagnosis, intentional observation, coagulation or medical suppression. This is consistent with the decision by the Canadian Collaborative Group on Endometriosis to use "typical" black or dark lesions to define endometriosis. This has a historical basis and is supported by high confirmation rates. But the same appearance at second surgeries has been foreign body in a small number of patients. Although biopsy may have little risk, it may have even scar.

"Dark scarred," puckered pigmented" or mixed color" lesions are not the same as "black" and "dark" lesions. "Black" and "dark" lesions can be other pathology other than endometriosis. As a corollary, endometriosis also has been associated with or coincidental to fibroids, endometrial hyperplasia, adenomyosis, adenocarcinoma, pelvic inflammatory disease, positive chlamydia tilters and other findings. Foreign body reaction and granulomas have been found at subsequent surgery after incomplete treatment of endometriosis. Neither a finding of endometriosis nor a finding of other disease excludes consistent pathology.

Clear and opaque lesions, white nodules and grayscale to tan nodules can be the most concerning. Psammoma bodies are generally opaque vesicles and endosalpingiosis are generally clear. Their gross appearance can be confused with endometriosis. These are associated with positive chlamydia trachomatis IgG antibody. Fitz-Zheehadis and low malignant potential tumors 10-14 While nodules have been metastatic breast cancer and granulomas to tan nodules have been endometrioid adenocarcinoma. 10, 11

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