

## Case Report

# Cutaneous Metastasis in Gastric Cancer

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**Introduction:** A case of gastric cancer developed cutaneous nodule found to be metastatic from stomach on histopathology. **Clinical picture:** A 50 yrs old patient presented with complaints of melena and diagnosed as gastric cancer stage T<sub>3</sub>N<sub>1</sub>M<sub>0</sub>. During in preoperative evaluation found to have skin nodule over anterior chest wall. On excision biopsy of the lesion, it turned out as metastatic lesion from adenocarcinoma of stomach. Patient was referred for palliative chemotherapy. **Outcome:** The patient had rapid downhill course after that and died in four months period after the diagnosis was made

**Key words:** Gastric Cancer, Cutaneous Metastasis

Dermatological Paraneoplastic Manifestations Of Gastric Cancer Have Been Described And These Include Dermatomyositis, Acanthosis Nigricans, Migratory Thrombophlebitis, Pemphigoid & Others. Cutaneous Metastases For Gastric Cancer Generally Take The Form Of Nodular Lesion And The Usual Location Is The Periumbilical And Umbilical Region<sup>1</sup>.

Cutaneous Metastasis May Be The First Manifestation Of Cancer, But More Often Is A Harbinger Of Advanced Disease That Portends On Omnious Prognosis. We Report This Unusual Case That Was Diagnosed As Gastric Cancer And Admitted For Surgery. On Preoperative Day During General Assessment Found To Have A Suspicious Nodule On His Anterior Chest Wall.

### Case History:

MA Was A 50 Years Old Man Had Symptoms Of Dyspepsia Off And On And Melena For Last Six Months For Which He Got Treatment From General Practitioner. On Development Of Loss Of Weight And Anorexia, He Was Advised Upper GI Endoscopy And CT Scan Abdomen & Pelvis.

On Examination Patient Had A Mass Palpable In Epigastrium. No Other Significant Systemic Finding Found On Examination. Endoscopic Biopsy Revealed Poorly Differentiated Adenocarcinoma. On CT Scan Abdomen There Was Diffuse Thickening Of Stomach And Enlarged Perigastric Lymph Nodes. No Distant Metastasis Was Found In CT Scans Of Chest Abdomen And Pelvis At The Time Of Diagnosis. Patient Was Scheduled For Surgery. On The Day Of Admission He Had Thorough General Assessment During Which A Suspicious Nodule Over His Anterior Chest Wall Was Found. Excision And Biopsy Of The Lesion Reported As Metastatic To Adenocarcinoma Stomach With Signet Ring Cell Features. Surgery Was Cancelled And Patient Referred To Oncological Service For Palliative Chemotherapy. The Patient Died After Four Months Of The Diagnosis.

### Discussion:

Skin Metastasis Is Uncommon, Ranging Room 0.2 % To 9% Of Autopsies Performed In Cancer Patients<sup>1, 2</sup>. It Is Generally A Minor Or Evolving Manifestation Of A Widely Disseminated Disease. However, On Rare Occasions, It Can Be The Sole Presenting Manifestation Leading To The Diagnosis Of The Primary. The Most Frequent Primary Non-Dermatological Tumours Associated With Skin Metastasis Include Breast, Lung, And Colorectal Cancers<sup>2</sup>. Skin Metastasis From The Upper Digestive Tract Is Relatively Infrequent And Accounts For 0.4% To 6% Of Cutaneous Metastasis<sup>3</sup>. Cutaneous Metastasis From Gastric Carcinoma May Be Solitary Or Multiple And Have Been Reported To Appear On The Head, Eyebrow, Neck, Axilla, Chest Wall, And Fingertip<sup>3,5</sup>. Patients With Cutaneous Metastasis From Gastric Cancer Usually Present With Skin Nodules. They Can Rarely Present With A Zosteriform Pattern Or An Erysipelas-Like Pattern, Lesions Resembling An Epidermoid Cyst, Condyloma Acuminatum Or A Benign Soft Tissue Tumour<sup>3</sup>. Skin Metastasis Indicate Early Fatal Termination, Therefore There Has Not Been A Reported Case Of Cutaneous Metastasis From Gastric Cancer To Have Complete Response With Long Survival<sup>4</sup>.

Metastatic Dissemination Of Gastric Carcinoma To The Skin Usually Occurs In Advanced Stage Cases Generally The Lesions Are Painless Hard Nodules On The Anterior Chest Wall<sup>6</sup>. Our Case Also Had The Nodular Lesion On Chest Wall And Was Symptom Less. In Most Other Case Reports The Prognosis Of Patients Presenting With Skin Metastasis Is Poor In View Of The Advanced And Disseminated Nature Of The Disease<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>.

### Conclusion:

Cutaneous Metastasis In Upper Digestive Tract Is A Rare Entity Occurs In Advanced Stages Of The Disease And Has A Early Fatal Outcome.

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