A 73-year-old man with esophageal varices due to hepatitis C virus-induced cirrhosis has been followed by endoscopy since 1994. When a smooth, flat elevation first appeared in the gastric antrum in 2004 (Fig. 1a), our provisional diagnosis was gastric verrucosa. Follow-up endoscopy over the next 2 years showed no remarkable change, but in 2007 the lesion grew bigger (Fig. 1b) and a small ulcer appeared on the apex in March 2008 (Fig. 1c). Mesenchymal tumors such as gastrointestinal stromal tumor or malignant lymphoma were suspected but biopsy was inconclusive. After another 6 months the ulcer had extended downward (Fig. 1d) and exhibited the characteristic gross appearance of an inflammatory fibroid polyp (IFP). The polyp, removed endoscopically, was composed of spindle cells arranged in an onionskin-like concentric formation in the submucosal layer, accompanied by inflammatory cell infiltration, which predominantly consisted of eosinophils (Fig. 2). On immunohistochemistry, the spindle cells were diffusely positive for PDGFRA (platelet-derived growth factor receptor α) (Fig. 3), focally positive for CD34, and negative for KIT. These findings were consistent with those of the classical IFP with concentric formation [1]. IFP is a rare mesenchymal tumor of the gastrointestinal tract and its natural history is unknown [2]. Our report demonstrates that it might take several years for gastric IFP to grow from an endoscopically discernible elevation into the characteristic submucosal tumor. Follow-up endoscopy would be needed for early diagnosis.

**Fig. 1** Pattern of growth of the gastric polyp. Endoscopic appearance in a 2004, b 2007, c March 2008, and d September 2008, which shows the findings representative for inflammatory fibroid polyp.

**Fig. 2** Polypectomy specimen shows the onionskin-like concentric formation of the spindle cells and dense inflammatory cell infiltration, predominantly eosinophils (hematoxylin and eosin, ×100).

**Fig. 3** Immunostaining exhibiting spindle cells diffusely positive for PDGFRA (×100).
copy enabled not only the establishment of the correct diagnosis before resection but also endoscopic treatment before surgical intervention became inevitable. Since the first description by Vanek [3] in 1949, IFP has been regarded as a reactive polyp rather than a neoplastic lesion. In 2008, however, a seminal study by Schildhaus et al. first demonstrated ubiquitous PDGFRA overexpression and frequent gain-of-functional PDGFRA mutation in IFPs [1]. These findings, supported by subsequent studies [4,5], point to the neoplastic nature of IFP and the current case supports a crucial role for PDGFRA activation in gastric IFP.

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Competing interests: None

K. Yamashita¹, Y. Arimura¹, T. Tanuma¹, T. Endo², T. Hasegawa¹, Y. Shinomura¹
¹ First Department of Internal Medicine, Sapporo Medical University, Sapporo, Japan
² Sapporo Shirakaba-dai Hospital, Sapporo, Japan

References


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Corresponding author
K. Yamashita
First Department of Internal Medicine
Sapporo Medical University
51 W16 Chuo-ku
Sapporo 060-8543
Japan
Fax: +81-11-611-2282
ykentaro@sapmed.ac.jp