Gastric metastasis of a renal cell carcinoma presenting as a polypoid mass

Renal cell carcinomas (RCCs) account for approximately 3% of adult malignancies. More than 50% of RCCs are detected incidentally, and in approximately one-third of patients, RCCs have metastasized at the time of initial diagnosis [1]. The sites of metastasis include the lungs (75%), soft tissues (36%), bones (20%), liver (18%), skin (8%), and central nervous system (8%) [2]. Gastric metastases of RCC are extremely rare, with only 23 cases reported in the literature [3]. We describe here a case of metastatic RCC presenting as a polypoid mass 7 cm in diameter.

A 59-year-old man was admitted to our hospital with weight loss and melena. He had undergone a right radical nephrectomy for a diagnosis of RCC 4 years earlier. On endoscopic examination, an ulcerated polyp 7 cm in diameter was noted in the corpus of the stomach. The patient underwent a partial gastrectomy, and a gastric adenocarcinoma was diagnosed. In the resected specimen, the tumor, which measured 7 cm, was a polypoid mass with an ulcerative growth pattern and some hemorrhagic areas. Based on the morphologic (Fig. 1, Fig. 2) and immunohistochemical (Fig. 3, Fig. 4) features of the lesion, we diagnosed metastatic clear cell RCC.

The mean time to metastasis is nearly 7 years (0–20 years). Gastric metastases are more common in the body of the stomach and tend to be a solitary mass or an ulcer resembling a primary gastric tumor [5]. Patients with RCC who undergo nephrectomy should be carefully followed up with imaging methods. The early treatment of RCC metastases to distant organs can be important for patient survival. The diagnosis of metastatic RCC should be considered if a patient has a history of RCC with clear cell morphology of the tumor cells.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AB_2AD_3AB

Competing interests: None

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1377550
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E464
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

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