

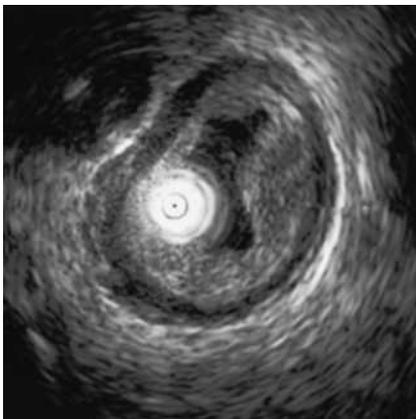
## Diagnosis by endoscopic mucosal resection of a rare esophageal squamous cell carcinoma mimicking a subepithelial tumor



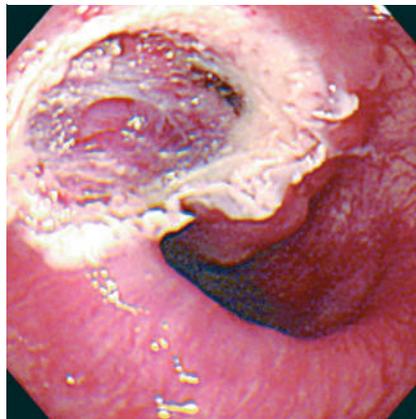
**Fig. 1** Initial endoscopic view showing esophageal SET covered by normal-appearing mucosa.



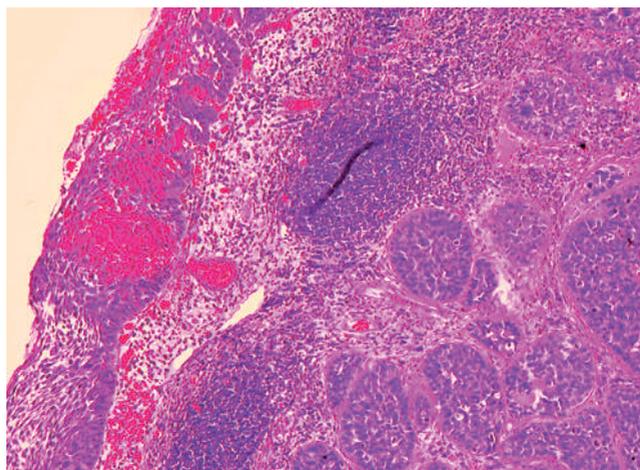
**Fig. 3** Another small epithelial tumor seen adjacent to the first lesion after 14 months' follow-up.



**Fig. 2** Endosonographic image of the esophageal tumor showing a hypoechoic nodule in the submucosal layer.



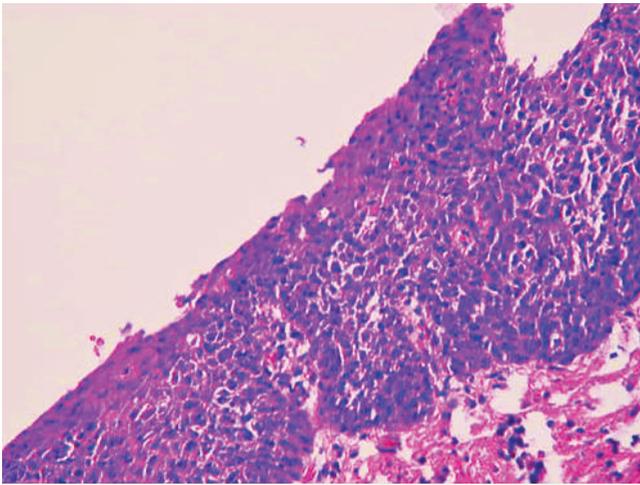
**Fig. 4** Macroscopic view of residual tumor remaining at the resection margin after EMR-c.



**Fig. 5** Photomicrograph of EMR-c specimen showing malignant cells infiltrating the submucosal layer with glandular formation (H&E, original magnification  $\times 100$ ).

A 48-year-old man was diagnosed with an esophageal subepithelial tumor (SET) found incidentally. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) revealed a SET in the lower third of the esophagus (36 cm away from the incisor) (● Fig. 1). EUS confirmed a hypoechoic tumor, measuring 0.8 cm, in the submucosal layer (● Fig. 2). Benign leiomyoma was the initial impression, and hence no aggressive therapy was performed. The tumor size and appearance remained apparently unchanged during the following 2 years. The last EGD examination showed some alteration. Another smaller SET was also found adjacent to the previous lesion (● Fig. 3).

Endoscopic mucosal resection with the suction and cap method (EMR-c) was performed for tissue proof. A whitish tumor measuring 8 mm was discovered in the submucosal region of the specimen and residual tumor remained under macroscopic view (● Fig. 4). The histological examination showed undifferentiated carcinoma. EMR-c was repeated 1 month later for a confirmatory diagnosis. Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) was verified (● Fig. 5). The patient therefore underwent esophagectomy and lymph node dissection. The final histological diagnosis was SCC invading the submucosal layer without lymph node metastasis or muscular layer invasion (● Fig. 6). This was a rare case of esophageal SCC with an atypical presentation mimicking a SET. SETs of the esophagus are typically considered to be benign tumors [1]. In addition, histological diagnosis of esophageal SETs by biopsy is difficult. Therefore, SETs of the esophagus are frequently neglected unless symptoms occur [2].



**Fig. 6** Photomicrograph of esophagectomy specimen showing squamous cell carcinoma with cancer cells confined to the epithelium (H&E, original magnification  $\times 400$ ).

EMR-c, initially designed for resecting mucosal lesions, could be used for removing SETs of the gastrointestinal tract [2–4]. Tissue specimens gathered by the EMR-c method are generally large enough for immunohistochemical diagnosis. The method is convenient and safe for the resection of the SETs within the submucosal layer. On the basis of our experience, an esophageal SET can be an atypical presentation of SCC that should not be overlooked. Early endoscopic resection to get tissue proof is pivotal to avoid missing diagnosis.

Endoscopy\_UCTN\_Code\_CCL\_1AB\_2AC\_3AB

**C.-S. Chuang<sup>1</sup>, I.-L. Lee<sup>1</sup>, K.-F. Lee<sup>2</sup>, S.-Y. Tung<sup>1</sup>, C.-S. Wu<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Department of Gastroenterology, Chia-Yi Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Chang Gung University, Taiwan

<sup>2</sup> Department of Pathology, Chia-Yi Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Chang Gung University, Taiwan

## References

- 1 Hyun JH, Jeon YT, Chun HJ *et al*. Endoscopic resection of subepithelial tumor of the esophagus: results in 62 patients. *Endoscopy* 1997; 29: 165–170
- 2 Lee I-L, Lin PY, Tung S-Y *et al*. Endoscopic submucosal dissection for the treatment of intraluminal gastric subepithelial tumors originating from the muscularis propria layer. *Endoscopy* 2006; 38: 1024–1028
- 3 Endo S, Hirasaki S, Doi T *et al*. Granular cell tumor occurring in the sigmoid colon treated by endoscopic mucosal resection using a transparent cap (EMR-C). [Review]. *J. Gastroenterol* 2003; 38: 385–389
- 4 Waxman I, Saltoh Y, Raju GS *et al*. High-frequency probe EUS-assisted endoscopic mucosal resection: a therapeutic strategy for subepithelial tumors of the GI tract. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2002; 55: 44–49

## Bibliography

**DOI** 10.1055/s-2007-966666

*Endoscopy* 2007; 39: E301–E302

© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

## Corresponding author

**I.-L. Lee, MD**

Department of Gastroenterology  
Chia-Yi Chang Gung Memorial Hospital  
6, Section west  
Chia-Po Road  
Putz City  
Chia-Yi 613  
Taiwan  
Fax: +886-5-3623005  
giyilinlee@gmail.com