

Bilateral extraocular muscle (EOM) metastases from adenocarcinoma of the gastro-oesophageal junction (GOJ)

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DESCRIPTION

A 77-year-old man with known adenocarcinoma of the gastro-oesophageal junction presented with symptoms of general deterioration associated with right-sided retro-orbital pain and visual disturbance. The visual acuity in the right eye was normal but there was paralysis of the lateral gaze. Furthermore, the left eye was deviated medially and inferiorly and there was very little preserved coordinated movement.

Twenty months prior to this presentation he had been diagnosed with a locally advanced unresectable moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma of the GOJ. The patient had been treated initially with chemotherapy consisting of epirubicin, oxaliplatin and 5-fluorouracil for 6 months but on disease progression had been switched to second-line chemotherapy consisting of Paclitaxel. At the time of developing his visual symptoms he had been off chemotherapy for 8 months.

In view of his symptoms and clinical signs he had an MRI orbits with gadolinium contrast. Axial and coronal T1 and short tau inversion recovery (STIR) images through the orbits were obtained. The MRI demonstrated nodular enlargement of bilateral multiple extraocular muscles with isointensity on T1-weighted images (figure 1) and intermediate-to-high signal intensity on T2-weighted images, and showed significant heterogeneous contrast enhancement with gadolinium (figure 2). These changes involved the inferior rectus on the right, bilateral medial recti muscles



Figure 2 MRI coronal T1-weighted images with fat saturation and postcontrast with intravenous gadolinium demonstrating enhancement of the metastasis within the right medial rectus.

and the left superior rectus with the largest lesion involving the right medial rectus.

The patient was admitted from clinic for symptom control, was treated with high-dose

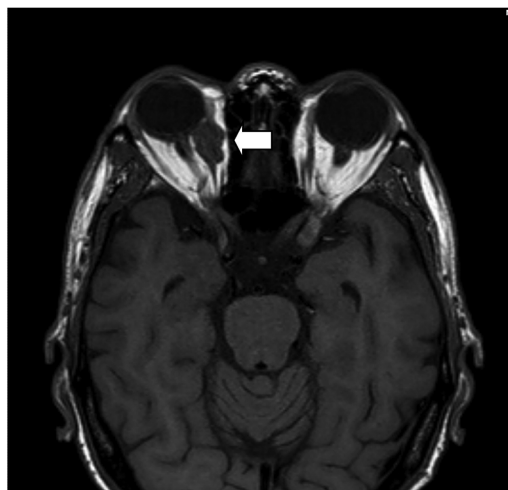


Figure 1 MRI axial T1-weighted images precontrast through the orbits demonstrating enlargement of the right medial rectus muscle.

Learning points

- ▶ Multiple extraocular muscle involvement by gastro-oesophageal carcinoma metastases is very rare but should be considered in the differential diagnosis for patients presenting with oculomotor symptoms.¹ It is associated with an extremely poor prognosis.²
- ▶ The differential diagnosis for extraocular muscles (EOM) metastasis includes thyroid-related orbitopathy and idiopathic orbital myositis which can also result in EOM enlargement.
- ▶ The superior contrast resolution provided by MRI of the orbits with contrast enables accurate examination of the orbital structures and anterior visual pathway in a patient presenting with unusual visual symptoms. It detects and characterises lesions of the extraocular musculature accurately and helps to narrow the differential diagnosis.



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steroids and completed a course of palliative radiotherapy. Although he had some symptomatic improvement he died 3 months after this presentation.

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