A rare case of gastric mixed adenoneuroendocrine carcinoma (MANEC) with gastric Helicobacter pylori-negative mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma

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DESCRIPTION

A 47-year-old African-American man presented to the emergency department with upper abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. His symptoms were aggravated by eating. He reported 32 kg unintentional weight loss over 2 months' period. Abdominal examination revealed tenderness in the epigastric region. Abdominal CT scan showed mural wall thickening involving the gastric antrum and pylorus (figure 1). Subsequent oesophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) revealed a large mass occupying the gastric antrum (figure 2). Initial biopsy from the gastric mass showed poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma.

The patient underwent partial gastrectomy with gastrojejunostomy and the gastric specimen was examined. There was a transmurally invasive adenocarcinoma that has a remarkable variety of cell types and growth patterns, including tubular, mucinous, clear cell and a microglandular component (figure 3). The immunohistochemical stains were positive for monoclonal antibody-31 and cytokeratin-7, indicating adenocarcinomatous differentiation, and clearly positive for neuroendocrine markers chromogranin and synaptophysin (figure 4). Therefore, this area has neuroendocrine as well as adenocarcinomatous differentiation, qualifying this neoplasm as mixed adenoneuroendocrine carcinoma (MANEC). In addition to the carcinoma, there was a nodular atypical lymphoid infiltrate with follicles that have expanded marginal zones and disrupted/colonised germinal centres (figure 5). The atypical lymphoid cells were CD20 and BCL2-positive B cells that lack coexpression of CD5, CD10 and cyclin D1. The cells in the interfollicular areas were kappa light chain restricted and some had a vaguely plasmacytoid appearance, but they were negative for CD138, CD3 and CD5. These findings were diagnostic of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma.

The final staging was T4a, N2, M0 (stage IVB) and the patient was started on adjuvant chemotherapy with fluorouracil, levoleucovorin and oxaliplatin for a total of 12 cycles. At the end of the treatment, the patient refused radiotherapy. Positron emission tomography scan at the time of the surgery did not show any evidence of distant metastasis. Follow-up CT abdomen and EGD at 24 months showed no evidence of recurrence. Our patient did not show any extragastric hormonal symptoms such as diarrhoea, facial flushing or wheezing.

Gastric MANEC is a rare form of mixed exocrine-endocrine tumour with each component representing at least 30% to fulfil the diagnosis. These tumours were recently recognised in 2010 by the WHO classification of tumours as a separate entity. Recognition of MANEC is an important step since these tumours overall carry a poor prognosis and early treatment plays a vital role to improve survival.

Helicobacter pylori-negative gastric MALT lymphoma comprises only 10% of gastric MALT lymphoma with the remaining developing secondary to H. pylori infection. The proposed aetiopathological factors in this form of tumour are infection with...
Different form of pathogen other than *H. pylori*, connective tissue disease or genetic mutation.  

Several cases were reported in the literature of synchronous gastric adenocarcinoma and MALT lymphoma with variable detection rate of *H. pylori*. To our best knowledge, this is the only reported case up to date of gastric MANEC with *H. pylori*-negative gastric MALT lymphoma.

Learning points

- Gastric mixed adenoneuroendocrine carcinoma (MANEC) is a rare and aggressive type of cancer and was included in the updated WHO classification of digestive system in 2010. Many cases, therefore, went unreported prior to this update.
- *Helicobacter pylori*-negative gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma can potentially be associated with MANEC tumour.
- The aggressive behaviour of gastric MANEC is largely secondary to characteristics of the neuroendocrine component and early detection and treatment can play a vital role to improve survival.
REFERENCES

