Type III Gastric Neuroendocrine Tumor: Case Report of a Rare Gastric Carcinoma

Christopher L. Orpiano
Michael Quinn
Gurjeet Kang
Aric Tucker
Aric Tucker

See next page for additional authors
Authors
Christopher L. Orpiano, Michael Quinn, Gurjeet Kang, Aric Tucker, Aric Tucker, Lakshminarasimhan Venu, and Joseph Staffetti
Gastric neuroendocrine tumors (GNETs) are rare lesions that comprise 0.1-0.6% of all gastric cancers. The frequency of GNETs is 2.5 cases per 100,000 persons per year, with recently increased incidence in the United States due to widespread use of upper endoscopy. GNETs are classified into three groups, based on pathogenesis and histomorphologic characteristics. These types differ in biologic behavior and prognosis, ranging from benign to highly malignant with extremely poor prognosis. Type I is the major subtype of GNETs, associated with chronic atrophic/ autoimmune gastritis with pernicious anemia (PA). Type II GNETs are associated with multiple endocrine neoplasia-1 (MEN-1), and Zollinger-Ellison syndrome (ZES). Type III GNETs represent the second most common type, which behaves aggressively with rates of metastasis higher than 50%, and tumor related death over 25-30%.

**Case Description**

The patient was a 63-year-old Caucasian male who presented for evaluation of recurrent anemia. Upon admission, patient was found to be anemic and required packed red blood cells (PRBC) transfusions. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) revealed a 2-3cm ulcerated mass with a clean based ulcer with rolled over edges in the proximal body along the greater curvature of the stomach. Tissue was sent for an expert opinion and the patient was diagnosed with an unusual neuroendocrine carcinoma. Three endocrine marker stains: chromogranin, synaptophysin, and CD56, all tested strongly positive confirming the diagnosis.

**References**

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