

**Title:**

**A rare heterotopic gastric mucosa appearing between the muscularis mucosae and submucosa**

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**A rare heterotopic gastric mucosa appearing between the muscularis mucosae and submucosa**

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**CASE REPORT**

A 30-year-old male was referred to our hospital with a history of abdominal distension of a six-month duration. The patient denied a family history of gastrointestinal tumors and the results of the physical examinations and laboratory tests were within the normal range. White light endoscopy identified a flat uplift of 2.8 x 3.0 cm at the cardia of the gastric fundus (Fig. 1A) and magnifying endoscopy with narrow-band imaging (ME-NBI) revealed an obscure demarcation line (DL) with an irregular surface microstructure and microvessels (Fig. 1B). The lesion was eventually resected by endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) (Fig. 1C). With regard to the tissues of esophagogastric junction, the histopathological examination identified multifocal ectopic mucosal glands located between the muscularis mucosae and submucosa, with inflammatory cell infiltration (Fig. 2A and B).

**DISCUSSION**

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of ectopic gastric mucosa appearing between the muscularis mucosae and submucosa at the esophagogastric junction. Currently, there are two theories that explain the mechanism. The most widely accepted one is that the ectopic gastric mucosa is an embryological remnant

and the alternative theory is an abnormal proliferation associated with inflammation (1). We do not have much evidence to clarify this case into one of the specific mechanism mentioned above. However, Nomura et al. reported two cases of a cervical esophagus adenocarcinoma that arose from the ectopic gastric mucosa, which was completely resected by ESD with no signs of recurrence (2). The lesion was successfully managed with ESD in this case. The symptoms subsided after surgery and the patient remained well during one year of follow-up. Long-term follow-up is recommended for these patients in case of a recurrence or gastric cancer.

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2. Nomura K, Iizuka T, Inoshita N, et al. Adenocarcinoma of the cervical esophagus arising from ectopic gastric mucosa: report of two cases and review of the literature. *Clin J Gastroenterol* 2015;8(6):367-76. DOI: 10.1007/s12328-015-0610-y



Fig. 1. A. Endoscopy revealed a flat uplift with erosion. B. Magnifying endoscopy with narrow-band imaging (ME-NBI) showed that the surface microstructure and microvessels were irregular. C. The resected specimen of the lesion.

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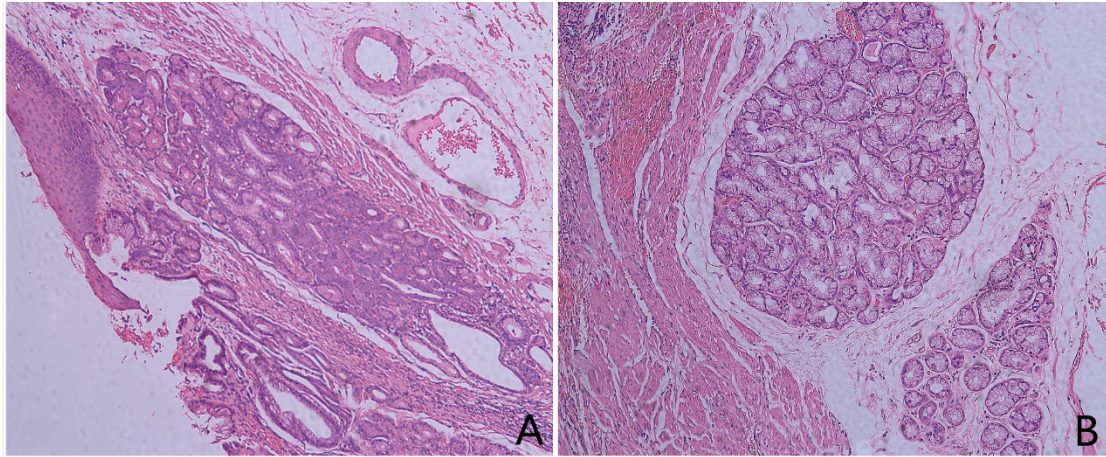


Fig. 2. A and B. The esophagogastric junction, ectopic mucosal glands located between the muscularis mucosae and the submucosa.

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