

**Title:**

**Pancreatic metastasis of Merkel-cell carcinoma: a rare neoplasm of the pancreas**

**Authors:**

José Francisco Sánchez Melgarejo, María Josefa Sánchez Fernández, Eduardo Alcaraz Mateos

DOI: 10.17235/reed.2020.6467/2019

Link: [PubMed \(Epub ahead of print\)](#)

Please cite this article as:

Sánchez Melgarejo José Francisco , Sánchez Fernández María Josefa, Alcaraz Mateos Eduardo. Pancreatic metastasis of Merkel-cell carcinoma: a rare neoplasm of the pancreas. Rev Esp Enferm Dig 2020. doi: 10.17235/reed.2020.6467/2019.



*This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.*

Accepted

CC 6467 inglés

## **Pancreatic metastasis of Merkel-cell carcinoma: a rare neoplasm of the pancreas**

José Francisco Sánchez Melgarejo<sup>1</sup>, María Josefa Sánchez Fernández<sup>1</sup> and Eduardo Alcaraz Mateos<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Digestive Tract Section and <sup>2</sup>Pathlogy Service. Hospital General Universitario Morales Meseguer. Murcia, Spain

Correspondence: José Francisco Sánchez Melgarejo.

e-mail: jf.sanchezmelgarejo@gmail.com

Keywords: Echoendoscopy. Pancreatic metastasis. Merkel-cell carcinoma.

Dear Editor,

We carefully read the article by Betés et al. (1) regarding the role of echoendoscopy plus fine-needle aspiration (FNA) in the diagnosis of pancreatic metastases. Only 2-3.9 % of pancreatic malignancies represent metastases from other tumors, the most common origins include the lungs, kidneys and gastrointestinal tract. The potential presence of metastatic disease should be suspected when faced with a pancreatic lesion in a patient with a history of cancer. Differentiating between primary and secondary lesions using diagnostic imaging may be challenging, whereas EUS-guided FNA is a safe and accurate procedure to obtain a tissue diagnosis. We report herein the case of a 70-year-old male who presented with jaundice and an indurated, vascularized, adherent nodule in his right thigh, 18 months after having been successfully treated for a Merkel-cell carcinoma in the right groin (Fig. 1A). Echoendoscopy identified a 48 x 45-mm mass at the head of the pancreas and a perilesional adenopathy with no evidence of vascular involvement (Fig. 1B). FNA revealed cell proliferation (Fig. 1C), which was positive for CD56 (Fig. 1D), synaptophysin and chromogranin, and negative for TTF1, CK7, and CK20 by immunohistochemically. These findings were consistent with a poorly differentiated

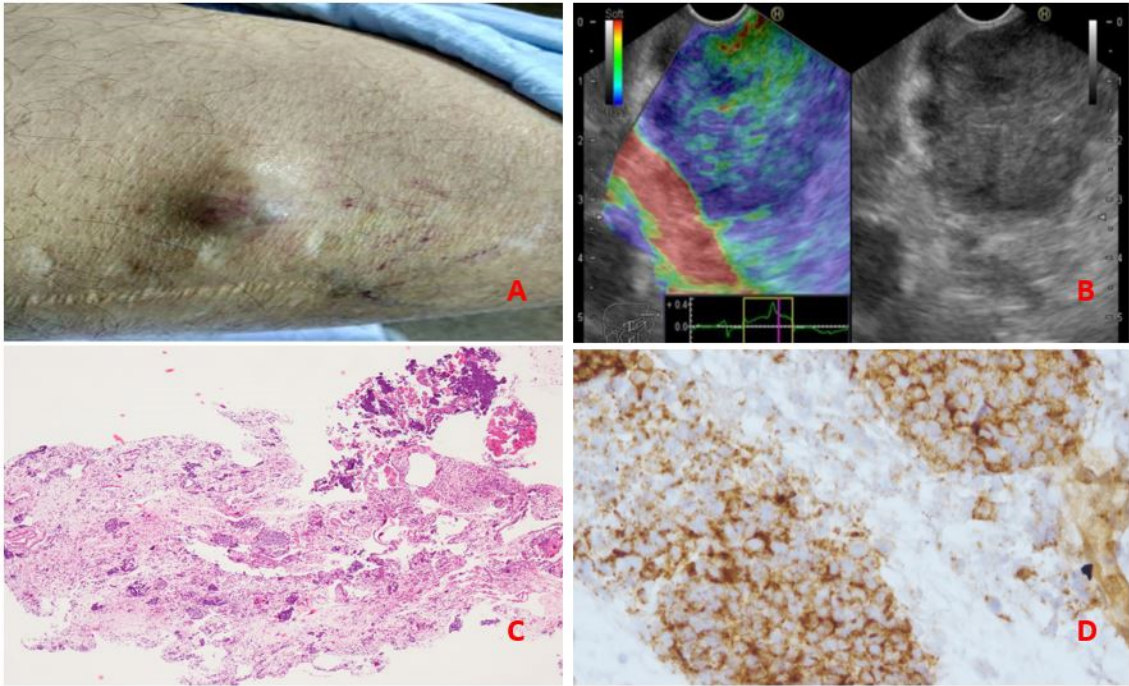
neuroendocrine carcinoma. The lesion was thought to be a pancreatic metastasis of Merkel-cell carcinoma in view of the patients' history, which represents a rare finding.

## **DISCUSSION**

Merkel-cell carcinoma (MCC) is a rare, aggressive neuroendocrine tumor of the skin with a frequency of 0.6/100,000 population. Immunohistochemically, the CK20 marker is highly sensitive and specific. Chromogranin, synaptophysin and CD56 may also be positive but are less specific and TTF1 and CK7 are usually negative (2). Around half of patients develop distant involvement during the course of disease. The liver, brain and bones are the most common sites of metastatic disease. Metastatic spread to the pancreas is exceptional (3). The prognosis worsens dramatically once metastases develop, with a median survival of 9 months.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Betés M, González Vázquez S, Bojórquez A, et al. Metastatic tumors in the pancreas: the role of endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration. *Rev Esp Enferm Dig* 2019;111(5):345-50. DOI: 10.17235/reed.2019.5914/2018
2. De Cock E, Remery M, De Vuyst M, et al. An unusual neoplasm of the pancreas: Pancreatic metastasis of a Merkel cell carcinoma. Case report and review of the literature. *Acta Gastroenterol Belg* 2015;78(3):332-5.
3. García García de Paredes A, Tavío Hernández E, Foruny Olcina JR, et al. Metástasis pancreática de carcinoma de células de Merkel diagnosticada mediante biopsia guiada por ecoendoscopia. *Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2016;39(6):395-7. DOI: 10.1016/j.gastrohep.2015.05.006



*Fig. 1. A. An indurated, vascularized, adherent nodule in the right thigh. B. A 48 x 45-mm mass at the head of the pancreas with no evidence of vascular involvement. C. EUS-guided FNA cell-block. D. Cell proliferation that was positive for CD56 via immunohistochemistry.*