Revista Española de Enfermedades Digestivas
The Spanish Journal of Gastroenterology

Title:
Metastatic melanoma: an uncommon cause of upper gastrointestinal bleeding

Authors:
Francisco Vara-Luiz, Marta Patita, Gonçalo Nunes, Jorge Fonseca

DOI: 10.17235/reed.2023.9678/2023
Link: PubMed (Epub ahead of print)

Please cite this article as:
Vara-Luiz Francisco , Patita Marta, Nunes Gonçalo, Fonseca Jorge. Metastatic melanoma: an uncommon cause of upper gastrointestinal bleeding. Rev Esp Enferm Dig 2023. doi: 10.17235/reed.2023.9678/2023.

Revista Española de Enfermedades Digestivas
The Spanish Journal of Gastroenterology

CC 9678

Metastatic melanoma: an uncommon cause of upper gastrointestinal bleeding

Francisco Vara-Luiz[1,2], Marta Patita[1], Gonçalo Nunes[1,2], Jorge Fonseca[1,2]

[1]Gastroenterology Department. Hospital Garcia de Orta. Almada, Portugal. [2]Centro de Investigação Interdisciplinar Egas Moniz (CiiEM). Caparica, Portugal

Correspondence: Conrado M. Fernandez
e-mail: cfernandezrcs@gmail.com

Conflict of interest: the authors declare no conflict of interest.

Statement of ethics: the patient has given written informed consent for publication (including the publication of images).

Data availability statement: the complete data of this study are not publicly available due to the patient's privacy but are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Author contributions: Francisco Vara-Luiz: conceptualization and draft writing. Marta Patita, Gonçalo Nunes and Jorge Fonseca: revision, edition and validation.

Keywords: Melanoma. Duodenal metastases. Gastrointestinal bleeding.

Dear Editor,

A Caucasian 75-year-old male was admitted due to hemorrhagic stroke. Past medical history included a cutaneous melanoma treated 12 years before, which was in remission. During hospitalization, he developed gastrointestinal bleeding manifested with hematemesis and hypotension. The upper endoscopy showed a sessile polypoid

lesion with central ulceration and active bleeding, in the third portion of the duodenum (Figs. 1 and 2). Biopsies were performed and histopathology revealed a poorly differentiated neoplasm positive for S100, SOX-10 and melan-A, suggestive of metastatic melanoma (Fig. 3). Multiple lung, liver and ileum metastasis were also detected by computed tomography. The patient developed bowel obstruction due to ileal intussusception and died a few days after diagnosis.

Discussion

Malignant melanoma is the most common cause of mortality due to skin cancer with increasing incidence (1). Primary tumors commonly occur in the skin, nevertheless they may also develop from other tissues containing melanocytes, such as the gastrointestinal tract (2). Melanoma gastrointestinal metastases are rare and represent a late stage of malignant disease with the jejunum and ileum being the most common locations, followed by stomach, colon and duodenum (3). However, distinguishing between primary or metastatic origin is challenging, and there are cases of intestinal melanoma diagnosed decades after the primary cutaneous tumor (4). More than 90 % of cases are identified *post mortem,* as symptoms are non-specific and related with complications, such as hemorrhage, obstruction and perforation, which tends to indicate progression towards advanced disease (5). The authors highlight metastatic melanoma as an uncommon cause of upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

References

1. Dzwierzynski WW. Melanoma risk factors and prevention. Clin Plast Surg 2021;48(4):543-50. DOI: 10.1016/j.cps.2021.05.001

2. Soares Santos DF, Costa M, Carvalho P, et al. Gastrointestinal metastatic melanoma: the key for diagnosis. GE Port J Gastroenterol 2021;30(1):73-5. DOI: 10.1159/000518000

3. Kohoutova D, Worku D, Aziz H, et al. Malignant melanoma of the gastrointestinal tract: symptoms, diagnosis, and current treatment options. Cells 2021;10(2):327. DOI: 10.3390/cells10020327

4. Gómez-Uranga A, Esteve-Atiénzar PJ, López-Jiménez A, et al. Primary intestinal melanoma? Rev Esp Enferm Dig 2022;114(11):695-6. DOI: 10.17235/reed.2022.8944/2022

5. Froes C, Scibelli N, Carter MK. Case report of metastatic melanoma presenting as an unusual cause of gastrointestinal hemorrhage in an elderly gentleman. Ann Med Surg (Lond) 2022;78:103920. DOI: 10.1016/j.amsu.2022.103920

Revista Española
de Enfermedades Digestivas
The Spanish Journal
of Gastroenterology

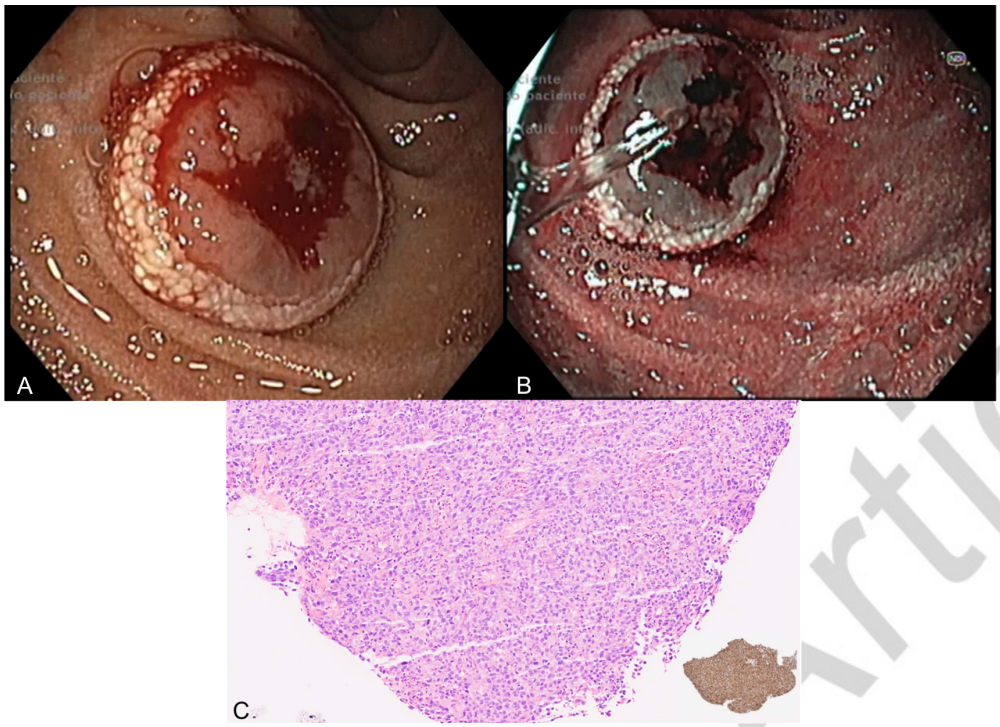

Fig. 1. A and B. Sessile polypoid lesion with central ulceration in the third portion of the duodenum under white light (A) and narrow band imaging (B). C. Histology section shows a poorly differentiated neoplasm positive for S100, SOX-10 and melan-A.