

Subcutaneous nodules as an initial presentation of metastatic gastric carcinoma

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This 83-year-old man presented with a four month history of multiple, hard subcutaneous nodules (Fig. 1) on a background of fatigue and weight loss. He denied any gastrointestinal symptoms. His full blood count showed a haemoglobin of 8.3g/dL (normal, 13-16g/dL) and white cell count $28 \times 10^9/L$ (normal, $4-11 \times 10^9/L$). Histology from a skin biopsy showed an invasive, poorly differentiated neoplasm infiltrating the dermis but not connected to the overlying epidermis, while histology of his bone marrow also demonstrated a poorly differentiated neoplasm. The tumour cells were positive for pancytokeratin (AE1/AE13) confirming the tumour was a carcinoma and epithelial in origin. Further staining showed positivity for CDX2 (Fig. 2) suggesting a gastrointestinal origin. A gastroscopy showed a large black irregular mass in his stomach (Fig. 3). The patient died five weeks later from metastatic gastric cancer. Less than 1% of gastric cancers present with skin metastasis [1,2].

Consent

The examination of the patient was conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki principles.

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form the patient(s) has/have given his/her/their consent for his/her/their images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.



Figure 1: Multiple subcutaneous nodules.

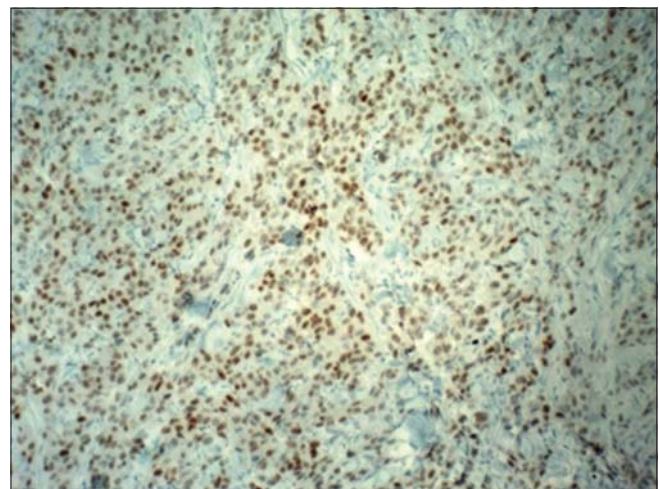


Figure 2: Tumour cells showing scattered positivity with CDX2.

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Figure 3: Gastroscopy showing gastric carcinoma.

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