Gastric Collision Tumor: A Rare case of an Adenocarcinoma and Carcinoid tumor
K Mardi, J Sharma, S Gupta

INTRODUCTION
Neuroendocrine cells are frequently found in gastric tumours, although they rarely make up more than one third of the total number of tumour cells. When juxtapositioning of the two kinds of tumour cells occurs, a “collision tumour” is formed. These have been described to occur with varying frequency throughout the digestive tract. They are uncommon in the stomach. We describe a case, of a gastric collision tumour in which an adenocarcinoma coexisted with a carcinoid tumour.

CLINICAL FINDINGS
A 47 year old female was admitted to the surgical ward with the history of vomiting and abdominal distension since one week. On endoscopic examination, a growth was noted at the pyloric end of the stomach. Biopsy revealed well differentiated adenocarcinoma. Surgery was the choice of treatment, and the patient underwent partial gastrectomy with the removal of lymph nodes and piece of omentum.

PATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS
On gross examination, partial gastrectomy specimen revealed Borrmann type 3 ulcer measuring 5x2.5cm at the pyloric end. Cut section of the growth was greyishwhite in colour with yellowish areas in the deeper portion. Microscopic examination showed that the tumor was composed of two distinct population of cells. One was well differentiated tubular adenocarcinoma and the other was carcinoid tumor composed of small uniform tumor cells arranged in solid nests, sheets and trabaculae(Fig1,2,3). These tumor cells had round nucleus with stippled chromatin, inconspicuous nucleolus and scanty cytoplasm. Both components of the tumor tissue invaded the subserosal layer. Lymph nodes showed metastatic deposits of adenocarcinomatous component. Immunohistochemical studies on carcinoid tumor showed positivity for chromogranin and synaptophysin.

Figure 1
Figure 1: Photomicrograph showing both adenocarcinoma and carcinoid, invading the muscularis propria (H&E, x20)
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DISCUSSION

In general, a carcinoid tumor of the stomach is rare and constitutes approximately 2% of all gastrointestinal carcinoid tumors. Still rarer in stomach are tumors comprising of both carcinoid and adenocarcinoma. This combination of tumors is divided into two morphological groups. When two elements are juxtaposed, a “collision tumor” is formed. When there is intermingling between the two components, it is called a “composite tumor.” Tumors like lymphoma, gastrointestinal stromal tumor, and carcinoid can occur in collision with gastric adenocarcinoma. In our case, there was collision between a well-differentiated adenocarcinoma and carcinoid. Usually, it is not easy to morphologically distinguish a collision-type from a composite-type tumor. It has been reported that metastasis from a composite tumor shows both of the tissue constituents, whereas those from a collision tumor show only a single tissue component. Our case was compatible with such a finding, since the metastatic lymph nodes showed adenocarcinoma alone.

To our knowledge, there are 34 cases of gastric collision tumor composed of epithelial and nonepithelial malignant neoplasm reported in the literature. A summary of those 34 cases showed a male-female ratio of 2.5:1 and an average age of incidence of 61 years (range, 42–80 years). Most tumors were found in the body of the stomach. In those cases, a simultaneous incidence of adenocarcinoma and malignant lymphoma was the most frequent finding. There were only 7 cases of adenocarcinoma and carcinoid tumor. Our case is the eighth instance of collision tumor of adenocarcinoma and the carcinoid in the stomach. Gastric collision tumors have also been reported in the greater and lesser curvature, but rarely in pyloric antrum.

The relationship between these two distinct tumors is unclear. There are two schools of thought regarding the origin of this tumor. One is that both are derived from a multipotential epithelial stem cell. The other hypothesis is that both tumors have different cells of origin. It has been observed that patients with carcinoids have an increased risk of developing secondary neoplasms and half of these cases also have an adenocarcinoma in the gastrointestinal tract.

The prognosis of collision tumors is uncertain, but it seems that the presence and degree of differentiation of the adenocarcinoma component have a greater negative impact than those of the carcinoid component.
Figure 4

Table 1: Summary of Case Reports on Gastric Collision Tumor Composed of Adenocarcinoma and the Carcinoid Type, including the present case

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case as</th>
<th>Age (yr)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Epithelial tumor</th>
<th>Neuroendocrine tumor</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>59M</td>
<td>Middle body</td>
<td>Adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>Carcinoid</td>
<td>Yamashina et al, 1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>88F</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>WD adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>Carcinoid</td>
<td>Chodankar et al, 1999</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>48M</td>
<td>Upper body</td>
<td>MD adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>Carcinoid</td>
<td>Morishita et al, 1991</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>72M</td>
<td>Ulcerosa</td>
<td>MD adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>Carcinoid</td>
<td>Corsi and Bonadonna, 1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>86F</td>
<td>Cardia</td>
<td>adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>Carcinoid</td>
<td>Mohini et al, 1997</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>54F</td>
<td>Cardia</td>
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<td>Morihisa et al, 2004</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>45M</td>
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<td>MD adenocarcinoma</td>
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<td>Jayarama A et al, 2003</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>47F</td>
<td>Pylorus</td>
<td>MD adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>Carcinoid</td>
<td>Present case, 2003</td>
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</tbody>
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CORRESPONDENCE TO

Dr. Kavita Mardi, MD, DNB Assistant Professor 12-A, Type V Quarters GAD Colony Kasumpli, Shimla, H.P. E-mail: kavitamardi@yahoo.co.in

References

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Author Information

Kavita Mardi, MD, DNB
Assistant Professor, Dept of Pathology, Indira Gandhi Medical College

Jaishree Sharma, MD
Professor and Head of Deptt, Dept of Pathology, Indira Gandhi Medical College

Saurabh Gupta, MBBS
Senior resident, Indira Gandhi Medical College