Gastric Adenocarcinoma with Systemic Metastasis Involving the Intraocular Choroid and Duodenum

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INTRODUCTION

Gastric cancer is a leading cause of cancer death worldwide. The most common metastatic sites of gastric cancer are the liver (40%) and peritoneum. Sometimes, it metastasizes to periumbilical lymph nodes, left supraclavicular sentinel nodes, the pouch of Douglass, and the ovaries.¹ Gastric cancer with orbital metastasis is rare, and so is that with accompanying duodenal metastasis. In Korea, 3 cases of orbital metastasis have been reported,²⁻⁴ but duodenal metastasis has never been reported. We report a patient with gastric adenocarcinoma who presented with orbital and duodenal metastases at the time of initial diagnosis.

CASE REPORT

A 60-year-old man was referred to the department of ophthalmology in our hospital because of a 1-month history of visual disorder and pain in his right eye. On presentation, the visual acuity of his right and left eyes were 0.05 and 0.9, respectively. Slit-lamp biomicroscopy revealed an inferonasal choroidal mass in the right eye. The anterior segment examination result was normal for both eyes. The intraocular pressure was within its normal limits. Fundoscopic examination disclosed an elevated choroidal tumor infiltrating the macular area. An exudative retinal detachment involving the macula was found. Echography revealed a polygonal mass with heterogeneously strong internal echoes in the same region. A computed tomography (CT) scan of the orbits demonstrated a 1.5-cm enhancing mass at the medial side of the choroid of the right eye. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) revealed the same lesion as an isointense signal on the T1-weighted image and as a hypointense signal on the T2-weighted image (Fig. 1). The diagnostic impression was a metastatic lesion. The left eye was unremarkable.

To identify the primary site of the metastatic cancer, we performed chest and abdominal CT. Radiological examination revealed advanced gastric cancer with central ulceration...
at the lesser curvature side of the high body. Multiple enlarged lymph nodes were observed at the perigastric, paraaortic, and mediastinal areas. Multiple liver, lung, and bone metastases were identified with peritoneal thickening.

18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography/computed tomography (18-FDG-PET/CT) revealed hypermetabolic lesions in the gastric high body and antrum. The SUVmax values of the high body and antrum were 8.3 and 4.3, respectively. Multiple hypermetabolic lesions were observed in supraclavicular/intra-abdominal nodes, the liver, the right eyeball, and bones. The SUVmax of the right eyeball was 3.8, which implied a metastasis (Fig. 2).

We performed esophagogastroduodenoscopy, which revealed a 3-cm ulceroinfiltrative advanced gastric cancer at the lesser curvature of the cardia. Three round elevated lesions were observed at the duodenal second portion. Endoscopy showed no mucosal lesion at the antrum (Fig. 3). Endoscopic biopsies of the lesions were performed, respectively. Pathological examination disclosed a malignancy of moderately differentiated tubular adenocarcinoma (Fig. 4A). The lesion at the duodenum showed a poorly differentiated tubular adenocarcinoma (Fig. 4B). Immunohistochemistry staining for c-erbB-2 (HER2) was negative. Finally, we made a diagnosis of advanced gastric cancer with multiple metastasis. The patient

![Image](https://example.com/image1)

**Fig. 1.** (A) Wide-field fluorescein angiogram showing hyperfluorescence in the late venous phases with leakage at the tumor border (arrow). (B) Wide-field fundus photograph showing a choroidal mass with associated exudative retinal detachment at the inferior area, without abnormal pigmentation. (C) Optical coherence tomography scan showing shaggy photoreceptors (arrow), “lumpy-bumpy” appearance of a retinal pigment epithelium (arrowhead), and retinal detachment with subretinal fluid, involving the fovea center. (D) Ultrasonography scan showing a polygonal choroidal mass with solid consistency, 22.8×5.5 mm in size, on A-scan (arrow). The B-scan shows high irregular reflectivity (arrowhead). (E) Computed tomography scan showing wall thickening of the medial side of the right eye (arrow), with enhancement. (F) Magnetic resonance imaging scan showing wall thickening of the medial side of the right eye. The T1-weighted image shows isointensity with enhancement, and the T2-weighted image shows hypointensity.
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started receiving chemotherapy with intravenous oxaliplatin and oral capecitabine.

**DISCUSSION**

Intraocular malignancy is a rare disease. Metastatic tumor is the most common type of intraocular malignancy. The representative symptoms of ocular metastasis are pain, exophthalmos, and decreased vision. The most common site of metastasis is the choroid, because of its rich vascularity. The choroid is a component of the uvea, along with the iris and ciliary body. Uveal metastasis of gastrointestinal malignancy was reported in 4% of cases. The prevalence of metastasis to the choroid was reported to be 838 (88%) of 950 metastatic foci in the uvea. For initial diagnosis, choroidal metastatic tumor has to be differentiated from melanoma, the most common malignancy in the choroid. MRI of the orbits is useful in the differential diagnosis of choroidal mass. The metastatic tumor features a well-circumscribed subretinal mass appearing as an isointense signal on the T1-weighted image and as a hypointense signal on the T2-weighted image. The diagnostic efficacy of N-isopropyl-p-123I iodoamphetamine single-photon emission computed tomography (123I-IMP SPECT) has been reported. Patients with orbital metastasis often have disseminated disease from a primary malignancy and a previous malignant disease. Therefore, we
should consider systemic chemotherapy as the initial treatment option for patients with orbital metastasis.\textsuperscript{11-13}

In addition, our case included small bowel metastasis. The incidence of small bowel cancer is 0.01%,\textsuperscript{14} accounting for 0.35% of all malignancies.\textsuperscript{15,16} Among small bowel malignancies, metastatic lesion is more common than primary tumor. The most frequent site of duodenal metastases is the periampullary region, followed by the duodenal bulb. The most frequent presentations are gastrointestinal bleeding and anemia.\textsuperscript{17} The most common metastatic malignancy of the small bowel is melanoma,\textsuperscript{17,18} followed by lung cancer.\textsuperscript{19} For diagnosis of metastatic lesions, CT, barium study, and upper endoscopy with tissue sampling can be used.\textsuperscript{20}

In summary, we report a rare case of advanced gastric cancer with systemic metastasis involving the intraocular choroid and duodenum at the initial diagnosis. In case of a patient with visual complaint and melena, the possibility of a metastatic malignancy should be considered.

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

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