



Tonsillar Metastasis of Gastric Carcinoma - A Case Report and Literature Review

Gabsi A, Sbika W*, Mokrani A, Yahyaoui Y, Mghirbi F, Letaif F, Meddeb K, Ayadi M, Chraiet N, Raies H and Mezlini A

Department of Medical Oncology, Salah Azaiez Institute, University Tunis Elmanar, Tunis, Tunisia

Abstract

Tonsillar metastasis of gastric cancer is very rare. We report a case of tonsillar metastasis from signet ring cell gastric carcinoma.

We present the case of a 66-year-old man who was treated for gastric cancer in 2014. After two years and three months, the patient developed a locoregional recurrence. He underwent surgery and post-operative chemotherapy. During the follow-up, 21 months after the recurrence, the patient developed pharyngeal discomfort. A mass of 4 cm was observed in the palatine tonsil with multiple cutaneous metastases. It was diagnosed as a metastasis from gastric cancer. The patient died one month later.

Keywords: Gastric cancer; Tonsillar metastasis; Malignant tumors

Introduction

Malignant tumors in the palatine tonsils are mostly primary malignancies. Metastatic carcinoma of the tonsil is uncommon, but tonsillar metastasis from gastric cancer is very rare. The review of the literature reports only 12 cases of tonsillar metastasis of gastric carcinoma [1]. To our knowledge, this is the first reported case that combines tonsillar and cutaneous metastases. We report a case of metastasis to palatine tonsil from a primary gastric signet-ring cell carcinoma. A review of the literature discussed.

Case Presentation

We present the case of a 66-year-old man treated for gastric cancer in 2014 - the diagnosis made by upper gastrointestinal endoscopy. The Pre-operative CT scan showed no evidence of distant metastasis. He underwent a subtotal gastrectomy with a D1, five lymph node dissection. Histologically, the tumor was a moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma with signet ring cells invading the subserosa without lymph node metastasis. Additional histologic findings were venous and lymphatic vessel invasion. After the surgery, a concomitant chemo-radiotherapy was indicated. The treatment was well tolerated. Two years and three months after, the patient developed a locoregional recurrence. He underwent surgery and post-operative chemotherapy by 12 courses of flox regimen including 5FU, folinic acid, and oxaliplatin. Grade 2 neuropathy was reported.

During the follow-up period, one year and nine months after the recurrence, the patient presented pharyngeal discomfort. A mass of 4 cm was observed in the palatine tonsil with multiple cutaneous mass of the head. The CT scan showed a left adrenal metastasis. The biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of a moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma, a metastasis from gastric cancer. The cutaneous nodules were also a metastasis of gastric cancer. The patient died after the diagnosis of tonsillar metastasis.

Discussion

Metastatic tumors to tonsil are rare. Gallo et al. reported that there were 100 cases published in the English-literature [2]. Many tonsillar metastases are from head and neck cancer [1]. Theories on the mechanisms of metastasis to the tonsils include: Haematogenous metastasis, lymphatic metastasis and direct seeding to the tonsil due to regurgitation of the gastric content [1]. A PUBMED research using the keywords "tonsillar metastasis" and "gastric cancer" found 12 case reports with available data. To our knowledge this is the first reported case that combines tonsillar and cutaneous metastases.

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*Correspondence:

Wafa Sbika, Department of Medical Oncology, Salah Azaiez Institute, University Tunis Elmanar, Tunis, Tunisia,

E-mail: drwafasbika@gmail.com

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Table 1: Reported cases of tonsillar metastasis from gastric cancer.

Author	Age/Sex	Gastric treatment	Interval	Tonsil treatment	Another Metastasis	Prognosis
Grippaudo [3]	82/F	Gastrectomy	11 months	Surgery	Liver	Unkown
Tanaka [4]	67/M	Gastrectomy	0 months	BSC	none	4 months
Passmore [5]	44/M	Gastrectomy/Chemotherapy	36 months	BSC	none	3 months
Kadowaki [6]	48/M	Gastrectomy	16 months	BSC	none	8 months
Gallo [7]	68/M	Gastrectomy	6 months	BSC	none	Unknown
Yamauchi [8]	74/M	Gastrectomy	12 months	BSC	Liver	1 months
Benito [8]	42/M	Chemotherapy	0 months	Surgery/chemotherapy	none	2 months
Suko [9]	59/M	Gastrectomy	24 months	Surgery	none	30 months
Hurlstone [10]	69/M	Gastrectomy	0 months	Surgery/RT	none	19 months
Minami [11]	58/F	Gastrectomy	2 months	Chemotherapy	none	14 months
Satoh [7]	73/M	Gastrectomy	5 months	BSC	Cerebral	3 months
Yamaguchi [1]	88/F	Gastrectomy	27 months	BSC	Adrenal gland	1 months

Table 1 summarizes information on these 12 cases. Only 5 patients were treated for their tonsillar metastasis. Three patients underwent surgery (1 case combined with chemotherapy and 1 case combined with radiotherapy) and there was 1 case treated only with chemotherapy. BSC was provided to another 7 patients. The longest survival was 30 months, with a mean survival of 14.6 month for the patients who was treated. The survival of our patient did not exceed one month. This can be explained by the presence in addition to the cutaneous metastasis which are darkened the prognosis in the gastric adenocarcinomas.

Although for the patients receiving BSC, the mean survival was 3.8 months. These data indicate that surgical treatment, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy were effective in tonsillar metastasis from gastric cancer.

Conclusion

The occurrence of tonsillar metastasis, although rare, must be considered in the differential diagnosis of tonsillar lesions. Histological confirmation is necessary for the diagnosis.

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