



Image of the Month

A rare cause of melena in lung cancer

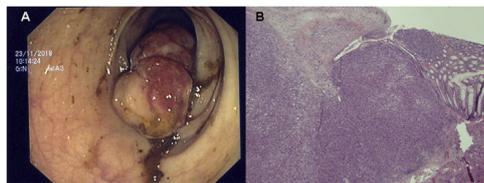
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Fig. 1. Panel A. Ulcerated polyp with a large base of implantation of the proximal descending colon. Panel B. Pathological specimen: HH, original magnification 20 \times . Poorly differentiated tumor with epithelioid and spindle cells having anaplastic aspects.

A 67-year-old woman was admitted to our department for one-month duration of asthenia. She was previously operated of upper right lobectomy for a high-grade sarcomatoid carcinoma. The patient was hemodynamically stable. Hemoglobin was 5.4 g/dL, and she was transfused with three blood units. An upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was carried out and it was unremarkable; a colonoscopy was then performed and a voluminous ulcerated polyp with a large base of implantation of the proximal descending colon was seen and removed without complications (Fig. 1a). The pathological examination of the polyp was compatible with a metastasis of the lung cancer (Fig. 1b). Because the appearance of melena requiring further hemotrasfusions, the patient underwent capsule endoscopy that showed a bleeding spontaneously large ulceration of the jejunum (Fig. 2). She was operated and 9 cm of jejunum were resected (Fig. 2); after surgical exploration another segment of ileum of 12 cm was resected (Fig. 2). The pathological examination of the surgical specimens demonstrated metastases of the lung cancer (Fig. 2).

Sarcomatoid carcinoma is a rare tumor of the lung defined as poorly differentiated non-small cell carcinoma containing spindle and/or giant cells [1]. Unusual anatomic sites of metastases are spleen, kidney, jejunum, and sigmoid colon [1]. This is the first description of a lung sarcomatoid carcinoma having metastatic involvement of both jejunum and proximal descending colon.

Conflict of interest

None declare.

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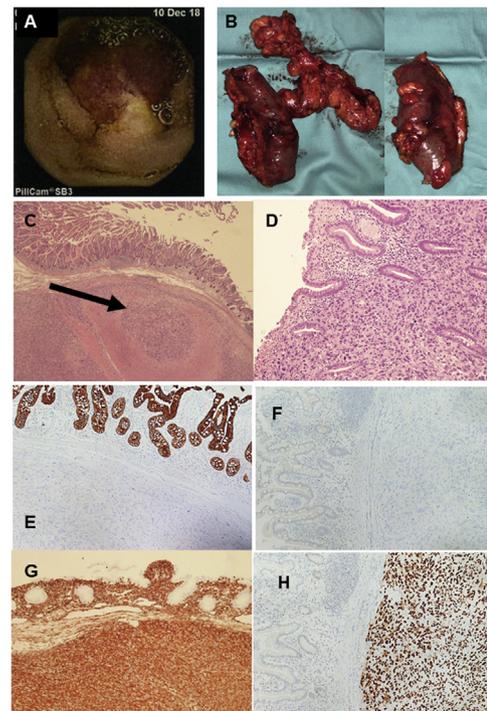


Fig. 2. Panel A. Capsule endoscopy: bleeding spontaneously large ulceration of the jejunum. Panel B. Resected specimens of the jejunum and ileum showing ulceration and polyps. Panels C (original magnification 20 \times) and D (original magnification 40 \times): Pathological specimens: HH, original magnification 20 \times and 40 \times . Poorly differentiated tumor with epithelioid and spindle cells having anaplastic aspects compatible with metastases (arrows) of sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung. Immunostaining of the ileal metastases was negative for both cytokeratin wide spectrum MNF 116 (Panels E) and TTF-1 (Panel F), and positive for both vimentin (Panel G) and P 53 (Panel H).

Acknowledgement

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Reference

- [1] Maneenil K, Xue Z, Liu M, Boland J, Wu F, Stoddard SM, et al. Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung: the Mayo clinic experience in 127 patients. *Clin Lung Cancer* 2018;19:e323–33.