INTERNAL MEDICINE IMAGES

Anemia and a kidney mass

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Figure 1. Second duodenal portion: eroded ampullary lesion

A 68-year-old woman, with no relevant medical history, was undergoing outpatient studies due to a small amount of painless gross hematuria and a kidney mass detected on ultrasound. She presented to the emergency room with a complaint of three months of asthenia, weight loss and dyspnea. Laboratory tests showed iron deficiency anemia (hemoglobin of 4.6 g/dL and ferritin of 11 ug/L). She underwent an upper GI endoscopy which revealed an eroded ampullary lesion suggestive of malignancy (Figure 1). Abdominal ultrasound confirmed the presence of an 8 cm kidney mass compatible with a kidney neoplasm (Figure 2) and a periampullary duodenal lesion with endoluminal infiltration. The histopathological study of the duodenal lesion showed ulcerated tissue infiltrated with renal carcinoma (Figure 3). In this case, the appropriate work up for iron deficiency anemia was able to adduce the duodenal lesion, which was compatible with metastasis. The ampulla of Vater is an unusual site for renal cell carcinoma metastasis and may present as GI bleeding, obstructive jaundice or iron deficiency anemia without obvious bleeding (1). The current treatment for renal carcinoma has improved its prognosis; it includes radical or partial nephrectomy with a curative intent, immunotherapy, and targeted therapy. Metastasis resection is available in some cases in which there are inoperable conditions (2, 3).

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Figure 2. Kidney mass in the lower pole of the right kidney (magnetic resonance, T2-HASTE).



Figure 3. Fragment of ulcerated tissue infiltrated with clear cell carcinoma.

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