

## Rare pancreas tumor mimicking adenocarcinoma: Extramedullary plasmacytoma

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### Abstract

Neoplastic proliferation of plasma cells is called plasma cell dyscrasias, and these neoplasms can present as a solitary neoplasm or multiple myeloma. Extramedullary plasmacytoma, in particular pancreatic plasmacytoma, is a rare manifestation of multiple myeloma. Although computerized tomography is useful for the diagnosis of extramedullary plasmacytoma, there are no specific radiologic markers that distinguish it from adenocarcinoma. Histological confirmation by biopsy is necessary for accurate diagnosis and management of the tumor. Endosonography is the most sensitive method for the diagnosis of pancreatic tumors, and the use of fine needle aspiration by endosonography is associated with a lower risk for malignant seeding and complications. Here, we report a case of pancreatic plasmacytoma in newly identified multiple myeloma as diagnosed by endosonography. Endosonography is a reliable and rapid method for the diagnosis of extramedullary plasmacytoma. Therefore, endosonographic fine needle aspira-

tion should be the first choice for histological evaluation when pancreatic plasmacytoma is suspected. Ideally, the pathology would be performed at the same site as endosonographic biopsy.

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**Key words:** Plasmacytoma; Endosonography; Pancreatic mass; Multiple myeloma; Fine needle aspiration

**Core tip:** The rare condition extramedullary plasmacytoma involves the gastrointestinal tract, usually liver, in approximately 10% of cases. A role for the pancreas is particularly rare. Pancreatic tumors can be identified radiologically, although it is impossible to discriminate between extramedullary plasmacytoma and adenocarcinoma. The use of endosonographic fine needle aspiration to acquire a histological sample from the pancreatic mass to confirm diagnosis is feasible and informative even in the presence of inoperable mass image.

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### INTRODUCTION

An uncommon manifestation of multiple myeloma is extramedullary plasmacytoma. It is generally localized to nasal fossa and rarely involves the pancreas. On imaging, such a pancreatic mass may mimic adenocarcinoma<sup>[1,2]</sup>.

### CASE REPORT

We present here a case of a 64-year-old man who was re-



Figure 1 Endosonographic view of mass.

ferred to our endoscopy unit for endosonographic (EUS) fine needle aspiration (FNA) for a pancreatic mass.

## DISCUSSION

EUS (Fujinon, Tokyo, Japan) revealed a 3 cm heterogeneous focal mass in the head of the pancreas (Figure 1). Neoplastic cells were detected by FNA (22 G; Cook Endoscopy, Winston-Salem, NC, United States), and plasmacytoma was diagnosed by the cytopathologist (Figure 2). Since plasmacytoma features are nonspecific on EUS and resemble other neoplasms including adenocarcinoma, plasmacytoma should be included in the differential diagnosis of a pancreatic mass, especially in advanced stage multiple myeloma patients. EUS-FNA is a fast and reliable technique for the diagnosis of plasmacytoma.

## COMMENTS

### Case characteristics

A 64-year-old man who was referred to our endoscopy unit.

### Clinical diagnosis

Endosonographic (EUS) fine needle aspiration (FNA) for a pancreatic mass.

### Differential diagnosis

Plasmacytoma features are nonspecific on EUS.

### Imaging diagnosis

EUS revealed a 3 cm heterogeneous focal mass in the head of the pancreas. Neoplastic cells were detected by FNA, and plasmacytoma was diagnosed by the cytopathologist.

### Pathological diagnosis

Since plasmacytoma features are nonspecific on EUS and resemble other neoplasms including adenocarcinoma, plasmacytoma should be included in the differential diagnosis of a pancreatic mass, especially in advanced stage multiple

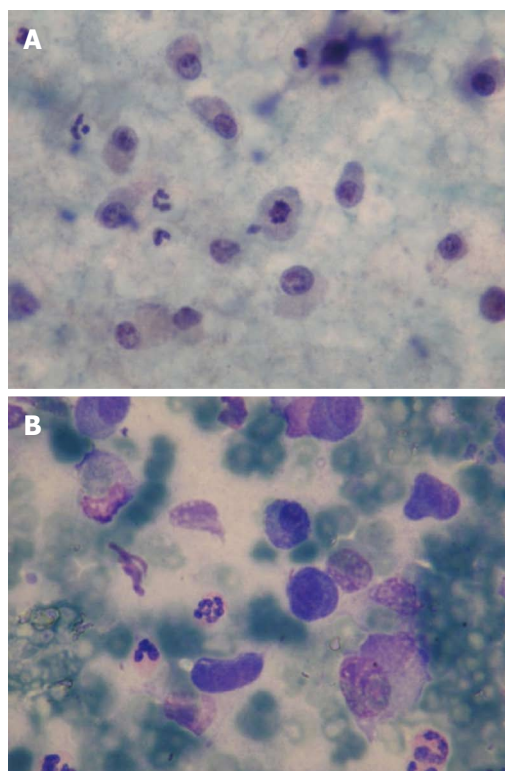


Figure 2 Cytopathologic findings of pancreatic mass obtained by endosonographic fine needle aspiration. A: Neoplastic plasmacytoid cells, mitose in the middle ( $\times 100$ , Papanicolaou stain); B: Neoplastic plasmacytoid cells ( $\times 100$ , May-Grunwald-Giemsa).

myeloma patients.

### Experiences and lessons

An uncommon manifestation of multiple myeloma is extramedullary plasmacytoma. It is generally localized to nasal fossa and rarely involves the pancreas.

### Treatment

EUS-FNA is a fast and reliable technique for the diagnosis of plasmacytoma.

### Peer review

As mentioned in this study, extramedullary plasmacytoma is a rare presentation of multiple myeloma. So it had innovative significance for this study to report a pancreatic plasmacytoma diagnosed by EUS-FNA.

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