

## CLINICAL IMAGE

### Sister Mary Joseph nodule

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#### Funding Information

No sources of funding were declared for this study.

Received: 28 September 2015; Revised: 13 October 2015; Accepted: 29 October 2015

*Clinical Case Reports* 2016; 4(2): 214–215

doi: 10.1002/ccr3.460

Question: What is this condition?

Answer: A 78-year-old Caucasian female presented to the ED with worsening lower abdominal pain, lethargy, and weight loss. Clinical examination showed abdominal distention and a firm, nontender, irregular 1 cm nodule within the umbilicus (Fig. 1). Her CT of the abdomen showed a mass lesion at the hepatic flexure of the colon, ascites, and widespread peritoneal carcinomatosis. The nodule at the umbilicus enhances with

#### Key Clinical Message

Umbilical tumors are relatively rare and can be classified as benign or malignant. The term “Sister Mary Joseph nodule” is used to describe an umbilical neoplasm associated with advanced metastatic intra-abdominal malignancy. It generally has a poor prognosis.

#### Keywords

peritoneal carcinomatosis, Sister Mary Joseph nodule, umbilical tumors.

contrast and radiologically represents a malignant deposit (Fig. 2). Subsequent colonoscopy and tissue biopsy revealed that the mass lesion was adenocarcinoma of the colon.

The clinical finding at the umbilicus is known as Sister Mary Joseph nodule. It is a metastatic deposit often as a result of an advanced intra-abdominal cancer. Gastrointestinal malignancies, commonly gastric, colonic, and pancreatic, account for about half of the underlying



**Figure 1.** The umbilical nodule.



**Figure 2.** The cross-sectional CT image of the umbilicus.

sources. Other sources include gynecological, cancer of unknown primary and rarely, urinary and intrathoracic malignancies [1, 2].

### **Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

### **References**

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