

You Shall Not Pass: Rare Duodenal Bulb Adenocarcinoma Causing Gastric Outlet Obstruction

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Introduction

- ❖ Duodenal adenocarcinoma accounts for only 1-2% of diagnosed gastrointestinal cancers in the United States and more than 50% of all small bowel adenocarcinoma. ^{1 6}
- Due to its insidious onset, advanced disease is often established at the time of diagnosis resulting in poor outcomes for patients.
- Duodenal adenocarcinomas arising from within the duodenal bulb in the D1 segment are a vanishingly rare phenomenon.

Case Presentation

- ❖ A 52-year-old female with a past medical history of of laparoscopic adjustable gastric band placement 14 years prior presented with frequent non-bloody, non-bilious emesis, inability to tolerate oral diet, and a 22 kg weight loss over 1 month.
- A recent esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) during a previous admission revealed a cratered ulcer in the duodenal bulb.
- An upper GI series was obtained during this admission, revealing a 2 cm mass in the bulb apex which was confirmed by computed tomography (CT).
- ❖ A repeat EGD was performed which identified a firm and friable ulcer with contact bleeding and complete obstruction of the duodenal bulb.
- Subsequent histopathology confirmed the presence of invasive, moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma.

Discussion

- The duodenum comprises 53% of all small bowel neoplasms. 6
- ❖ Of duodenal tumors, about 57% occur in the D2 segment of the duodenum. ²
- ❖ A 2014 meta-analysis of small bowel cancers between 1990-2012 from an institutional registry (excluding ampullary cancers arising from the bile duct mucosa) identified only 30 cases of primary duodenal adenocarcinoma, none of which arose from D1. ³
- ❖ A previous 1991 literature review cites 47 cases of primary duodenal adenocarcinoma arising from the D1 segment of the duodenum.²
- ❖ During this study, anatomic distinction between the duodenal bulb and the distal D1 segments was not made.
- ❖ In a study of 217 primary duodenal adenocarcinoma, the median survival was 20 months, with 35% presenting with metastatic disease (39% present with stage III disease). ⁷
- Although small bowel tumors are the third leading cause of gastric outlet obstruction, lesions are typically asymptomatic.
- ❖ A study of 9,700 autopsies found that 67% of small bowel neoplasms are benign, which emphasizes that the prevalence of asymptomatic lesions may be higher than reported. 8

Images

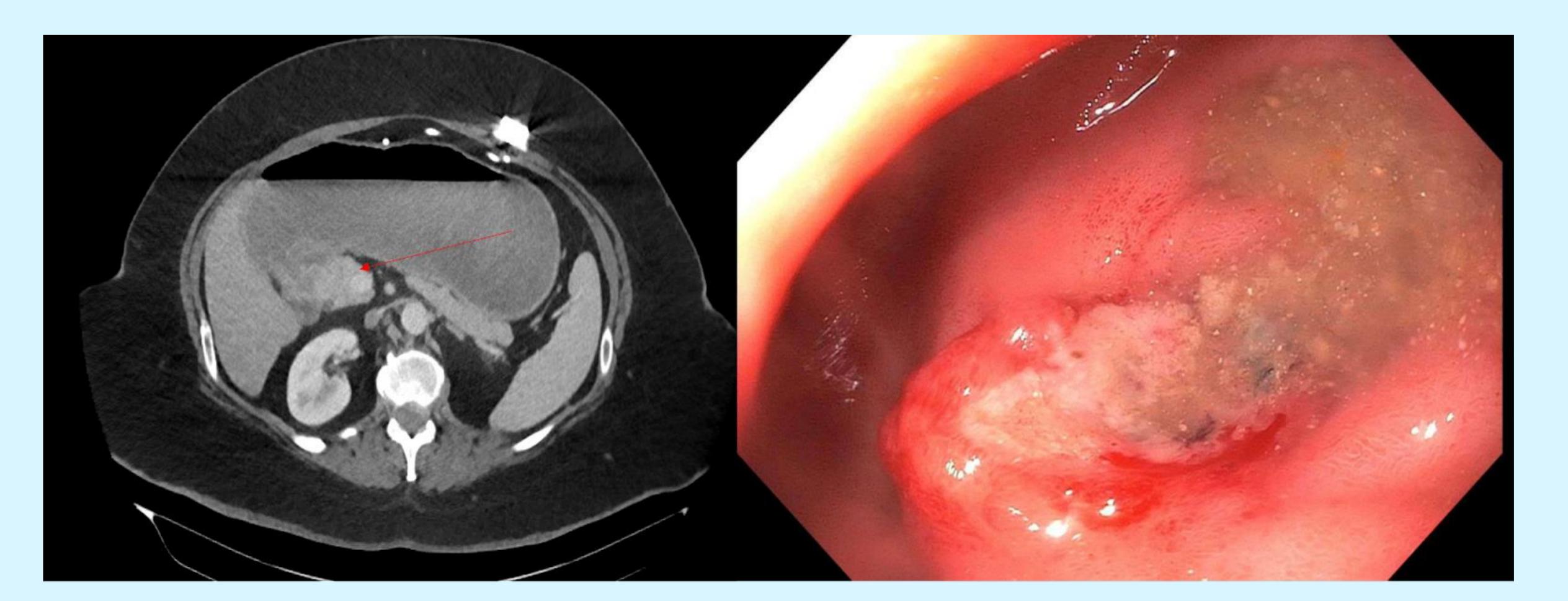


Figure 1: CT demonstration of duodenal bulb mass causing gastric outlet obstruction

Figure 2: Endoscopic image of duodenal bulb tumor

Conclusion

- Although it is difficult to distinguish the prevalence of duodenal bulb neoplasms, it has been clearly demonstrated that neoplasms arising from the D1 segment of the duodenum are extremely rare.
- ❖ By presenting this case, we hope to increase the index of suspicion for small bowel neoplasms as part of the differential for gastric outlet obstruction.

Acknowledgements

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