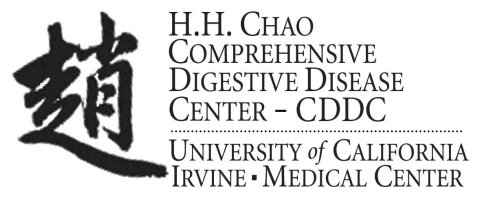




MALT LYMPHOMA: AN UNLIKELY DIAGNOSIS OF GASTRIC SUBEPITHELIAL LESION

Amirali Tavangar MD, David L. Cheung MD, Vamsi Vemireddy MD, Julie J. Oh MD, Jason Samarasena MD, MBA, AGAF, FACG
H. H. Chao Comprehensive Digestive Disease Center, University of California Irvine Medical Center



INTRODUCTION

- MALT lymphoma is one of the most common types of extra-nodal non-Hodgkin lymphomas and originates from marginal zone B-cells in the gastrointestinal mucosal-associated lymphoid tissues.
- Although the most frequent location which MALT is within the stomach, it is a rare disorder.
- Most cases are associated with gastric H. pylori infection
- It is typically a low-grade neoplasia, characterized by a dense lymphoid infiltration that invades and destroys gastric glands and results in the so-called “lymphoepithelial lesion”.
- We present an atypical case of MALT lymphoma.

CASE DESCRIPTION

- A 56-year-old male presented with anemia. Initial endoscopic evaluation revealed several large gastric subepithelial lesions in the antrum and body of the stomach that were ulcerated. After biopsies showed only chronic inflammation, the patient was referred to our center for further evaluation with EUS. There were multiple bulky confluent submucosal hypoechoic lesions seen with ulcerated mucosa overlying involving the gastric body, angularis and proximal antrum. Given the large size, it was difficult to determine from which wall layer they originated. Also, there were multiple malignant appearing lymph nodes seen adjacent to the stomach. Biopsies through both fine needle biopsy and forceps biopsies were performed. The pathology report revealed low grade B-cell lymphoma with clonal plasmacytic differentiation, suggestive of marginal zone of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma (MALT).

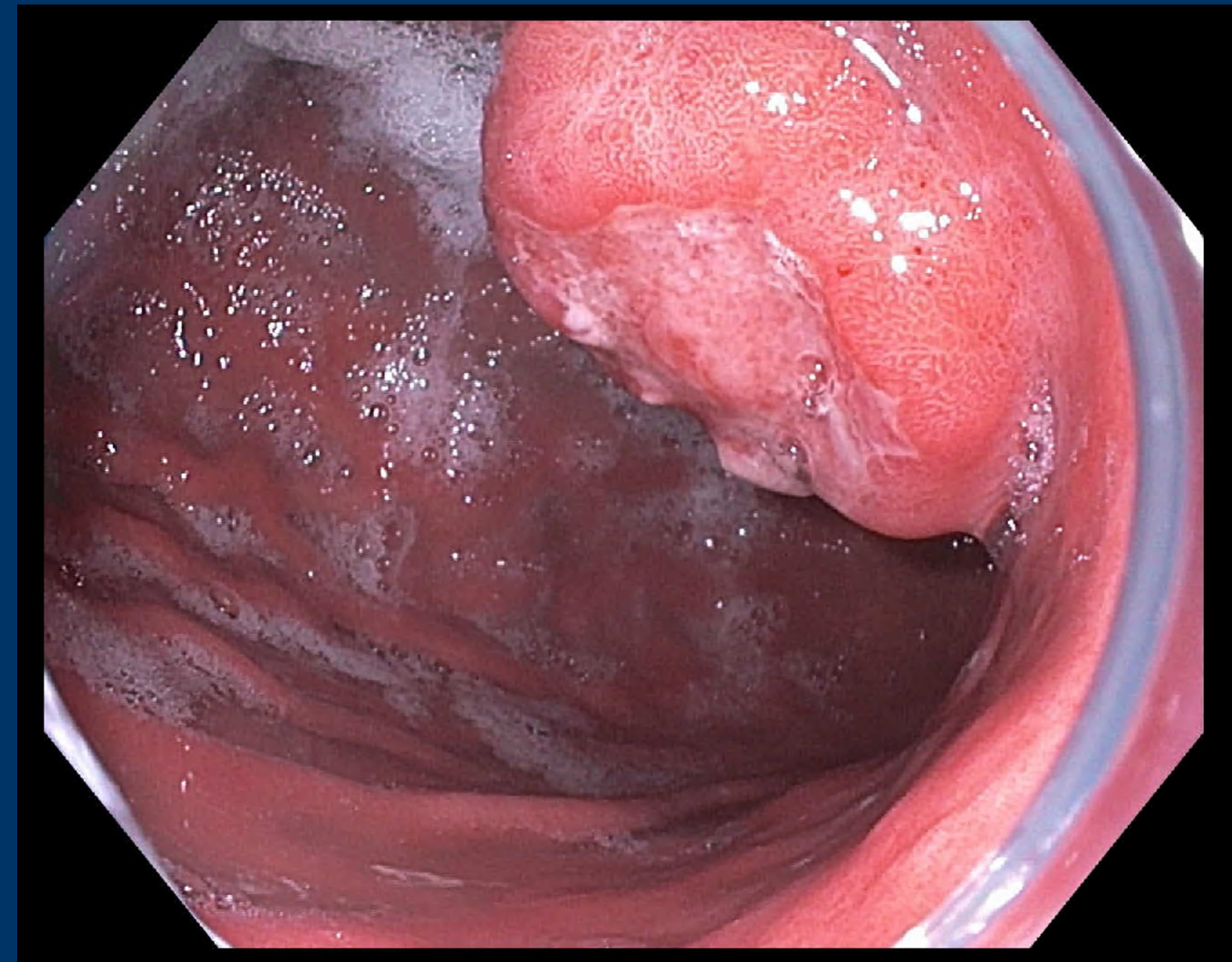


Figure 1: A large subepithelial lesion in the gastric body seen on EGD



Figure 2: subepithelial lesion visualized on EGD/EUS

DISCUSSION

- MALT lymphoma is typically an indolent low-grade tumor that usually presents with a more subtle endoscopic appearance.
- In this case, the tumor was bulky, ulcerated and had metastasized to the lymph nodes around the stomach. Also, there was no evidence of H. pylori infection.
- Beside GIST (Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor), MALT lymphoma also should be considered on the differential diagnosis of any gastric lesion given the presentation can be so varied.

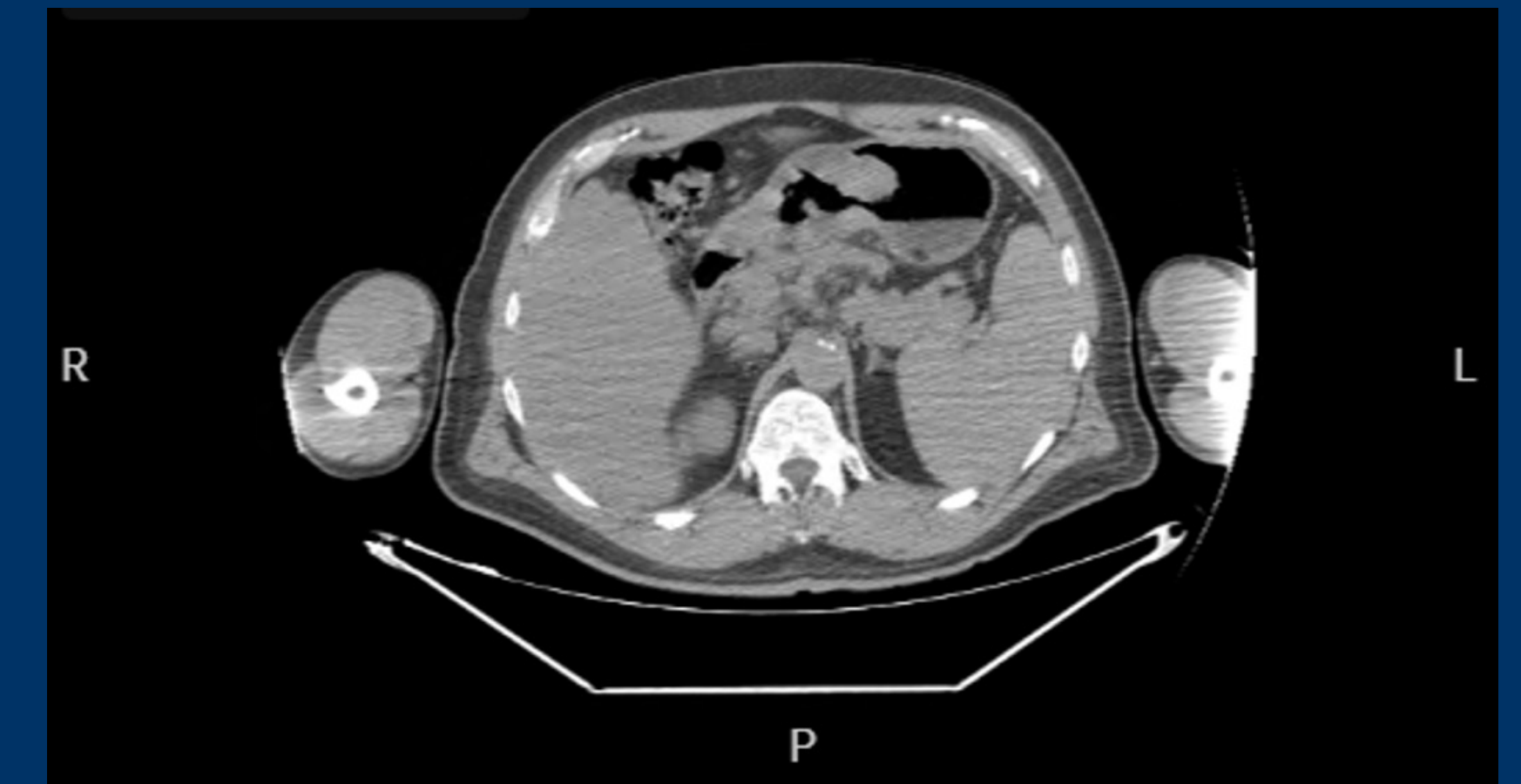


Figure 3: CT Abdomen and Pelvis showing the lesion within the stomach

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