## CASE REPORT - OPEN ACCESS

International Journal of Surgery Case Reports 42 (2018) 204-207



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

# **International Journal of Surgery Case Reports**

journal homepage: www.casereports.com



# A case of gastric glomus tumor resection using laparoscopy endoscopy cooperative surgery (LECS)



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#### ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 15 August 2017 Accepted 10 December 2017 Available online 16 December 2017

Keywords: Gastric glomus tumor LECS Submucosal tumor

#### ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Gastric glomus tumors are rare submucosal mesenchymal tumors. Because gastric glomus tumors are submucosal tumors and resemble gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs), preoperative diagnosis is difficult. We present a case of gastric glomus tumor that was removed by laparoscopy endoscopy cooperative surgery (LECS).

CASE PRESENTATION: A 67-year-old female was taken to the emergency room at our hospital due to epigastric pain. An upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed a submucosal tumor (SMT) located in the lesser curvature of the upper body of the stomach. Endoscopic ultrasonography revealed an intraluminal hypoechoic tumor located in the third or fourth layer of the stomach wall. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CECT) of the abdomen showed a 20-mm, well-enhanced, intraluminal-type tumor located in the lesser curvature of the upper body of the stomach. Laparoscopy endoscopy cooperative surgery (LECS) was performed. Immunohistochemistry revealed the expression of smooth muscle actin and vimentin, but not of keratin, S-100 protein, C-kit, or CD34. The tumor was finally diagnosed as a gastric glomus tumor

CONCLUSION: Glomus tumors are rare submucosal tumors of the stomach, and they should be considered in the differential diagnosis of gastric submucosal tumors. LECS could be a less invasive and effective method for treatment of gastric glomus tumor.

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#### 1. Introduction

This report has been reported in line with the SCARE criteria and cite [1]. Glomus tumors are rare mesenchymal neoplasms arising from the neuromyoarterial canal or glomus body [2–4]. Most glomus tumors are found in peripheral soft tissues and the extremities, and they rarely occur in the gastrointestinal tract. Gastric glomus tumors represent only 1% of all gastrointestinal soft tissue tumors [2–4]. Because gastric glomus tumors are submucosal tumors and resemble gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs), preoperative diagnosis is difficult. We present a case of gastric glomus tumor that was removed by laparoscopy endoscopy cooperative surgery (LECS).

#### 2. Case presentation

A 67-year-old female presented at the emergency room (ER) of our hospital complaining of epigastric pain. Blood examination

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showed no anemia, and her tumor markers were normal. An upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed a submucosal tumor (SMT) with no delle, located in the lesser curvature of the upper body of the stomach (Fig. 1A). When trying to biopsy the tumor, heavy bleeding occurred, and we could not obtain sufficient tissue to make a diagnosis. Endoscopic ultrasonography revealed an intraluminal hypoechoic tumor in the third or fourth layer of the stomach wall (Fig. 1B). Contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CECT) of the abdomen showed a 20-mm, well-enhanced, intraluminaltype tumor located in the lesser curvature of the upper body of the stomach and no swollen lymph nodes (Fig. 2). We suspected a GIST and planned to perform LECS because the tumor was intraluminal and located in the upper body of the stomach. We confirmed the intraluminal tumor location using endoscopy. Blood vessels in proximity to the tumor-excision area were prepared by the laparoscopic team using ultrasonically activated coagulating shears. Then, the endoscopic team marked an appropriate mucosal resection line using a needle knife and dissected the submucosal layer using an insulated tip electrosurgical knife (IT Knife) in the intraluminal stomach. Next, the endoscopic team made a perforation of the stomach wall at the dissection line with a needle knife. Subsequently, the seromuscular layer was dissected along the incision line by the laparoscopic team using the ultrasonically activated

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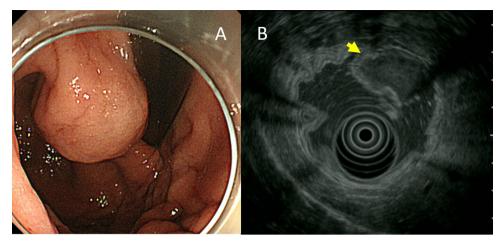


Fig. 1. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealing a submucosal tumor located in the lesser curvature of the upper body of the stomach (A). Endoscopic ultrasonography revealing an intraluminal hypoechoic tumor located in the third or fourth layer of the stomach wall (B).

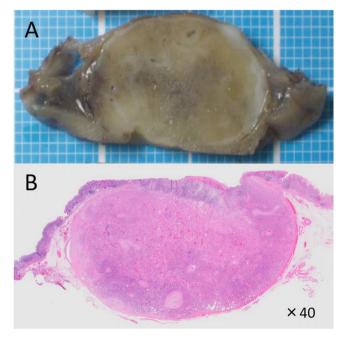


**Fig. 2.** Contrast-enhanced computed tomography showing a 20-mm, well-enhanced, intraluminal-type tumor located in the lesser curvature of the upper body of the stomach (arrow).

coagulating shears under laparoscopic view. After a circumferential full-thickness resection, the resected specimen was placed in a plastic bag and removed from the umbilical incision. The stomach wall defect was closed with laparoscopic sutures. The gross appearance of the resected tumor showed a  $20 \times 20$ -mm submucosal mass that was well circumscribed (Fig. 3A). Histopathology confirmed a well-circumscribed tumor localized in the submucosal layer (Fig. 3B). The tumor was composed of accumulated round and spindle cells, which surrounded the capillary blood vessels (Fig. 4A). Immunohistochemistry revealed the expression of smooth muscle actin (Fig. 4B) and vimentin (Fig. 4C), but not of keratin, S-100 protein, C-kit, or CD34. The tumor was finally diagnosed as a gastric glomus tumor. The postoperative course was good, and the patient was discharged from our hospital 8 days post-surgery. She had no recurrence and no complaints for 2 years after the operation.

#### 3. Discussion

Glomus tumors, first reported by Kay et al. [5], are neoplastic mesenchymal lesions originating from either the neuromyoarterial canal or the glomus body [2–4]. These tumors often occur in peripheral soft tissue and the extremities. In the gastrointestinal tract,



**Fig. 3.** Gross appearance of the resected tumor. A  $20 \times 20$  mm submucosal mass that was well circumscribed was observed (A). Histopathology revealing a well-circumscribed tumor localized in the submucosal layer (B).

glomus tumors are mainly reported in the stomach and resemble GISTs [2-4].

Gastric glomus tumors are more common in females than males (female:male = 3:1), and they most frequently occur in adults between 28 and 79 years of age [6]. Gastric glomus tumors are often found in the antrum and can range in size from 0.8–11 cm [3].

Gastric glomus tumors are usually benign but may rarely undergo malignant transformation. According to the WHO classification, glomus tumors are considered malignant when they exceed 2 cm in size and have histological features such as nuclear atypia, necrosis, and mitotic activity. Malignant glomus tumors are not frequently reported, and recurrence or metastases are very rarely reported. Only three cases of a metastatic glomus tumor in the stomach have been reported (Folpe et al., Miettinen et al. and Sung Eun Song et al. [7–9]).

Patients with these tumors can present with ulcer-like symptoms such as epigastric pain, upper gastrointestinal bleeding and perforation, but some tumors are discovered incidentally with no

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