

Mucosa-associated Lymphoid Tissue Lymphoma of the Rectum - A case report -

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Primary colorectal lymphoma accounts for only 0.2~0.65% of large intestinal malignancies. Mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma in the rectum is very rare. We report the case of a 73-year-old woman with morphologic and immunophenotypic findings consistent with mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma of the rectum. The woman complained of consistent bloody diarrhea and recently developed abdominal pain, febrile and chilling sensation. Ultrasonography of upper abdomen detected multiple stones within the gallbladder and the gallbladder was resected using laparoscopic surgery. An ulcerative polypoid mass in the rectum was detected by colonoscopy and computerized tomography of abdomen. Microscopic and immunohistochemical studies showed a diagnosis of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma. This patient was consulted to the department of radiotherapy because of poor general condition and old age. Chemotherapy was not performed. She was followed up with no relapse of the lesions during 7 months after the diagnosis. *J Korean Soc Coloproctol* 2003;19:394-398

Key Words: Colorectal, Lymphoma, Mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
직장결장, 점막 연관성 림프조직 림프종

In the revised European-American Lymphoma (REAL) classification, a MALT lymphoma is described as a subtype of a non-Hodgkin lymphoma derived from marginal-zone lymphocytes.¹ It has been suggested that

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'acquired MALT' secondary to autoimmune disease or infection may form the substrate for lymphoma development. After Isaacson and Wright² suggested the MALT lymphoma concept, 20 reported cases in the large intestine were found using MEDLINE. We report an additional case of MALT lymphoma arising in the rectum.

REPORT OF A CASE

A 73-year-old woman with diabetes had had bloody diarrhea 6 months before and had developed abdominal pain with a febrile and chilling sensation 5 days before. Ultrasonography of the upper abdomen showed multiple stones within the gallbladder with wall thickening. Cholelithiasis and acute cholecystitis were suspected. The gallbladder was resected using laparoscopic surgery. Computerized tomography (CT) of the abdomen showed a diffuse thickening of the right lateral and posterior rectal wall with luminal narrowing (Fig. 1). Also, a hyperemic, easily bleeding, somewhat elevated and hard rectal mass was detected by colonoscopy. A biopsy was done. Microscopic and immunohistochemical studies provided a diagnosis of MALT lymphoma. A bone marrow biopsy showed no evidence of tumor involvement. Clinically, stage IE is curable by resection, but this patient was referred to the Department of Radiotherapy because of poor general condition and old age. 130 cGy five times per week for a total tumor dose of 4,520 cGy/5 wks was planned. Chemotherapy was not performed. She was followed-up closely with endoscopy and biopsy, and no relapse of the lesions was detected 7 months after the

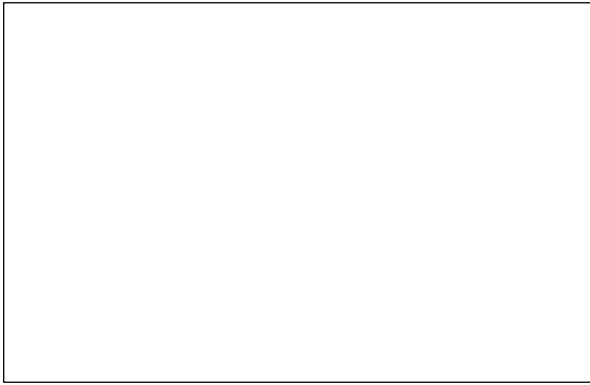


Fig. 1. Computerized tomography of the abdomen showed a diffuse thickening of the right lateral and posterior rectal wall with luminal narrowing.

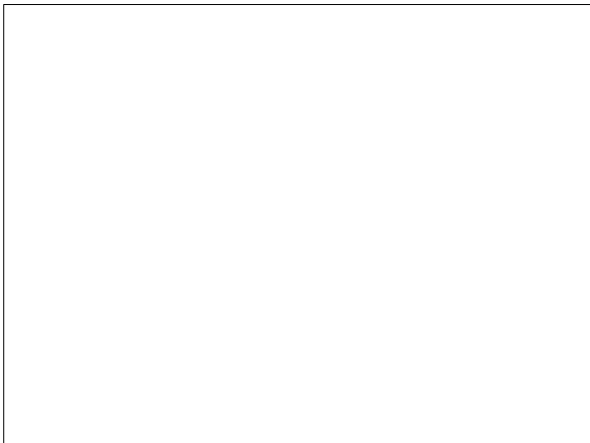


Fig. 2. Microscopic findings of the nodular rectal mass showed a dense, diffuse lymphocytic infiltration with a decrease in the mucosal glandular structure (H&E stain, ×40).

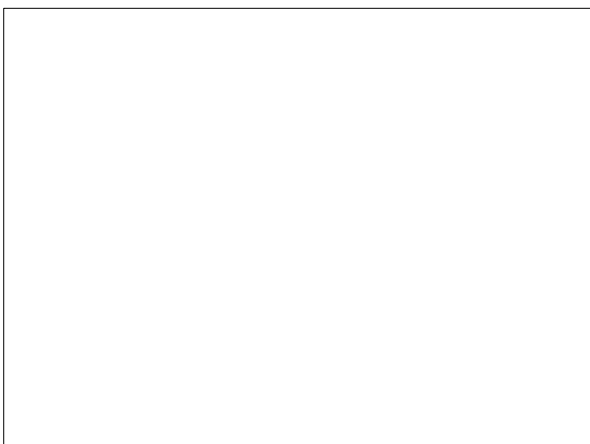


Fig. 3. Lymphoepithelial lesions, characterized by infiltration of centrocyte-like lymphoma cells around the epithelium, are seen (H&E stain, ×400).

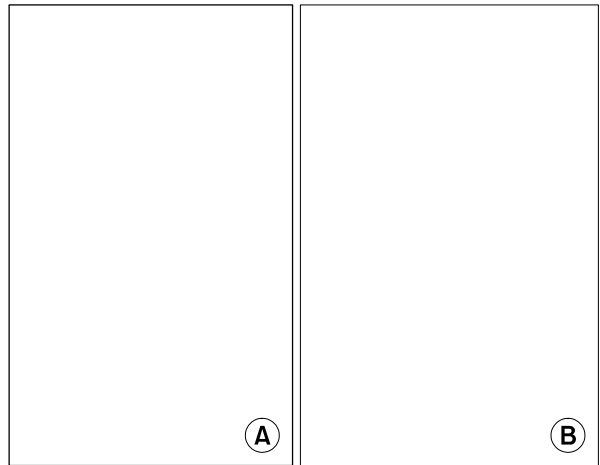


Fig. 4. In immunohistochemical staining, lymphoma cells were positive for kappa light chain staining (B) and negative for lambda light chain staining (A) (IHC stain, ×200).

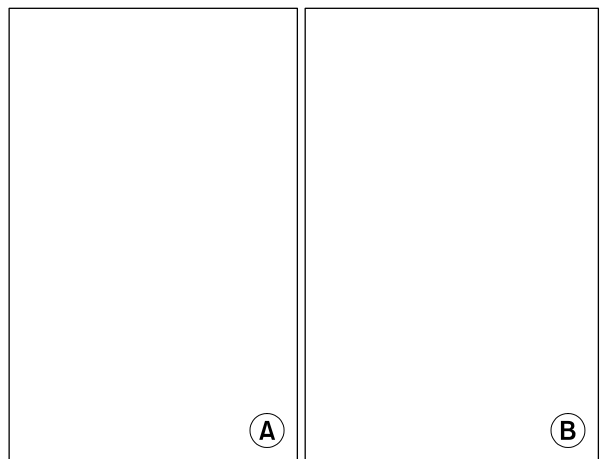


Fig. 5. Lymphoma cells were stained with CD3- (A) and CD20+ (B) by immunohistochemical staining (IHC stain, ×200).

diagnosis.

Microscopic findings showed a dense, diffuse lymphocytic infiltration with lymphoepithelial lesions, characterized by infiltration of lymphoma cells around the epithelium (Figs. 2, 3). Nuclear features resembled those of small cleaved cells of a germinal center, so-called centrocyte-like cells. In immunohistochemical staining, lymphoma cells were positive for kappa light chain staining and negative for lambda light chain staining (Fig. 4), which demonstrates these lymphoma cells represent monoclonal neoplasms. In addition, lymphoma cells were stained with CD3-, CD20+, CD5-, CD10-, CD23-,

and cyclin D1- (Fig. 5).

DISCUSSION

The concept of a MALT lymphoma was first described by Isaacson and Wright in 1983.² In the 1990s, the distinct clinical-pathologic and molecular features of a MALT lymphoma became widely accepted.³ MALT lymphoma is now incorporated into the Revised European-American Lymphoma (REAL) and the World Health Organization (WHO) classification systems as an extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma, MALT type.^{4,5} It accounts for 4~13% of patients seen in individual cancer centers.⁶ Out of them, primary rectal MALT lymphoma is a rare neoplasm. After Isaacson and Wright² suggested the MALT lymphoma concept, 20 reported cases of MALT lymphoma in the rectum were found by medline search (Table 1).^{1,3,7-20} In these 20 cases and our present case, the ages ranged from 45 to 76 (average 65.7 years) and the male : female ratio was 1 : 2. Endoscopic findings revealed a submucosal tumor-like, a small nodular, or a polypoid mass. Especially, when

multiple polypoid lesions are found, it is necessary to make a differential diagnosis between MALT lymphoma and mantle-cell lymphoma, which have different prognostic and therapeutic implications.²¹ In a large series by Shepherd et al.,²² MALT lymphoma was most common, accounting for 29 (64.5%) of 45 cases of primary colorectal lymphomas. A MALT-type of lymphoma usually presents with a solitary lesion of polypoid appearance.²³ In contrast, mantle-cell lymphoma (MCL) may also initially involve the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, although the most common presentation is lymphadenopathy. The GI involvement of MCL is characterized by multiple polypoid lesions, which is termed multiple lymphomatous polyposis. The differential diagnosis is also difficult with a histological examination, especially on a small endoscopic biopsy specimen.²³ The lymphoma cells of the two lesions, namely the centrocyte-like cells of MALT lymphoma and the so-called 'centrocytes' of MCL, are similar in size and often closely resemble each other morphologically. The immunohistochemical detection of cyclin D1 overexpression is a most important tool for distinguishing between an MCL and an MALT lymphoma.

Table 1. Reported cases diagnosed as mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma of the rectum

Year	Authors	Age	Sex	Signs and symptoms
1993	Takasaki et al.	67	F	Positive fecal occult blood
1993	Bschorer et al.	56	M	Weight loss
1994	Larvol et al.	72	F	Diarrhea
1995	Imamura et al.	61	F	None
1995	Ikenaga et al.	71	F	Anal bleeding
1995	Iwashita et al.	72	F	Bloody stool
		71	F	Anal bleeding
		69	F	Melena
		74	F	Melena
		72	F	Melena
1996	Igami et al.	76	F	None
1996	Kazami et al.	47	M	Bloody stool
1996	Okamoto and Ohara	48	M	Anal bleeding
1997	Arano et al.	75	F	Positive fecal occult blood
1997	Matsumoto et al.	72	M	Rectal bleeding
1998	Inoue and Chiba	62	F	Hematochezia
1999	Hosaka et al.	56	M	None
1999	Orita et al.	64	F	Positive fecal occult blood
2000	Takenaka et al.	76	M	Positive fecal occult blood
2001	Gavioli et al.	45	M	Bloody diarrhea

phoma. Also, rare lymphoid polyps of the rectum should be differentiated from malignant lymphomas by using cytomorphology and the immunohistochemical findings of the lymphatic infiltrate.²⁴ In our case, the immunohistochemical stains with CD5-, CD10-, CD23-, and cyclin D1- confirmed an MALT lymphoma, not an MCL. Surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy have been used in the treatment of GI lymphomas. Especially, the therapy for MALT lymphomas has included antibiotic regimens that can eliminate *Helicobacter pylori* in the rectum,¹⁷ as well as in the stomach. Also, radiation therapy or surgery has been used when the disease is of limited extent.

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국문초록

직장의 점막 연관성 림프조직 림프종

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원발성 직장결장 림프종은 대장 악성 암종의 0.2~0.65%에 이른다. 그 중에서도 직장의 점막 연관성 림프조직 림프종은 매우 드물다. 저자는 73세 여성의 점막 연관성 림프조직 림프종 한 예를 경험하였기에 조직학적 그리고 면역조직화학 염색의 특징을 보고하고자 한다. 환자는 지속되는 혈성 설사와 최근에 발생한 복통, 열 그리고 오한감을 주소로 내원 하였다. 상복부의 초음파촬영술에서 담낭 내 다수의 담석을 발견하여 담낭절제술을 시행하였다. 결장내시경술과 전산화 단층촬영술로 직장에서 궤양을 동반한 용종성 종물을 발견하였다. 현미경 검사와 면역조직화학염색 결과를 토대로 점막 연관성 림프조직 림프종으로 진단하였다. 이 환자는 전신 쇠약이 심하고 나이가 많아서 수술이나 화학요법은 실시하지 않았고, 5주간 직장에 4,520 cGy의 방사선 치료를 받았다. 환자는 진단 후 7개월 동안 재발없이 지내고 있다.