IMAGE OF THE ISSUE

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Enteroblastic Differentiation in Primary Jejunum Adenocarcinoma

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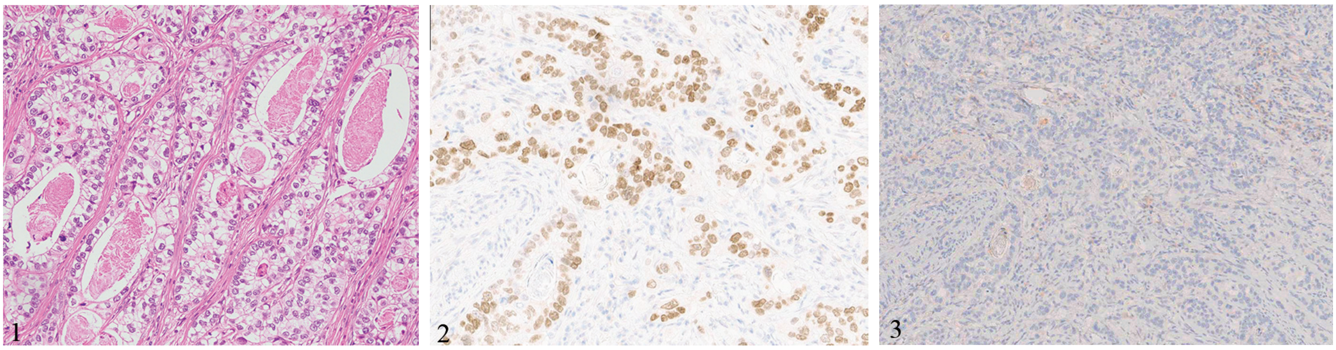

A 64-year-old woman experienced abdominal pain and was transferred to our hospital for examination and treatment. Laboratory test results showed no elevation of tumor markers such as CA19-9 and CEA. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography showed localized wall thickening of the small intestine, dilatation, and fluid retention on the oral side; no other solid lesions were detected throughout the body. We performed an anterograde double-balloon endoscopy and identified ulcerative lesions with stenosis in the jejunum. Histopathological examination of biopsy specimens confirmed the diagnosis of poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma. Open partial small bowel resection was performed. Histologically, adenocarcinoma of atypical cells with round nuclei and pale cytoplasm showed proliferating and infiltrating tubular growth (Fig. 1). Immunohistochemistry revealed positive, partially positive, and negative staining for SALL4 (Fig. 2), Glypican3, and AFP, respectively (Fig. 3). Metastasis was observed in one of the lymph nodes. We diagnosed adenocarcinoma with enteroblastic differentiation (ACED). The patient preferred undergoing follow-up without treatment. Thirty months have passed since the surgery without recurrence.

Adenocarcinoma of the small intestine is a rare disease. ACED is known as the representative histological type of AFP-producing tumors most of them are diagnosed as a special type of gastric cancer and reported to account for 2.7% of all gastric cancers [1]. Other than gastric cancer, there have been very few cases reported without reports on the jejunum [2-4]. Although ACED is considered to have a high malignant potential and poor prognosis, our case has shown recurrence-free survival for 30 months without adjuvant chemotherapy. Small intestinal cancer is considered rare. However, approximately 12,000 new cases of small bowel cancer are diagnosed annually in the United States, which is approximately 1.5 times more than a decade ago [5, 6]; the number of ACED reports is expected to increase.

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