

Sister Mary Joseph's Nodule

Sakkarin Chirapongsathom, MD, and Patrick S. Kamath, MD



From the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN (S.C., P.S.K.); and Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, Phramongkutklo Hospital and College of Medicine, Royal Thai Army, Bangkok, Thailand (S.C.).

A 78-year-old woman presented with epigastric pain, melena, and weight loss. There was a slight protuberance in her umbilical region (Figure). Computed tomographic scan showed thickening of the wall of the stomach and an umbilical mass (see the arrow in the Supplemental Figure, available online at <http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org>). In this patient, esophagogastroduodenoscopy

revealed a gastric mass and histopathology confirmed gastric adenocarcinoma. Pathological evaluation of the umbilical nodule showed metastatic deposits of well-differentiated adenocarcinoma.

Metastatic cancer of the umbilicus, known as Sister Mary Joseph's nodule, refers to a palpable nodule bulging into the umbilicus as a result of metastatic gastrointestinal tract or ovarian cancer. Sister Mary Joseph (1856-1939) was the first administrator of Saint Mary's Hospital of Mayo Clinic. She noted the association between metastatic intraabdominal cancer confirmed at operation and para-umbilical nodules observed during skin preparation for operation.



FIGURE. Black umbilical node with a small ulcer.

SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE MATERIAL

Supplemental material can be found online at <http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org>.

Correspondence: Address to Sakkarin Chirapongsathom, MD (Sakkarin33@gmail.com).