

Gastric Signet Ring Cell Carcinoma

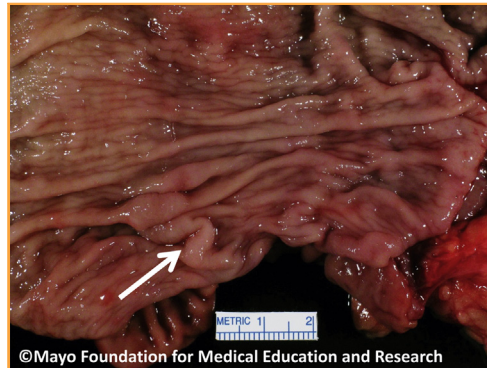


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This subtotal gastrectomy specimen has a thickened antral rugal fold (arrow) indicating an area of signet ring cell carcinoma. The tumor was confined to the mucosa.

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Which statement is most accurate about gastric cancer?



- a. Gastric cancer is the second most common type of cancer worldwide
- b. The widespread use of upper gastrointestinal tract endoscopy has had no effect on the on the detection of superficial gastric cancers
- c. Even early gastric cancers are uniformly fatal
- d. Signet ring cell carcinomas are classified as tubal or intestinal-type gastric cancer

(see page e96 for answer)

Answer: a. Gastric cancer is the second most common type of cancer worldwide.



The widespread use of upper gastrointestinal tract endoscopy has increased the frequency of detection of superficial gastric cancers.¹ Gastric cancer is considered potentially curable if detected early. Early gastric cancers are confined to the mucosa or submucosa. Signet ring cell carcinomas are a poorly cohesive type of gastric cancer.

Microscopy shows tumor cells in the mucosa that are single cells (arrow) with distended cytoplasm and compressed eccentric nuclei.

REFERENCE

1. Dinis-Ribeiro M, Areia M, de Vries AC, et al. Management of precancerous conditions and lesions in the stomach (MAPS): guideline from the European Society of Gastrointestinal

Endoscopy (ESGE), European Helicobacter Study Group (EHSG), European Society of Pathology (ESP), and the Sociedade Portuguesa de Endoscopia Digestiva (SPED). *Endoscopy*. 2012;44(1):74-94.