INTERNAL MEDICINE

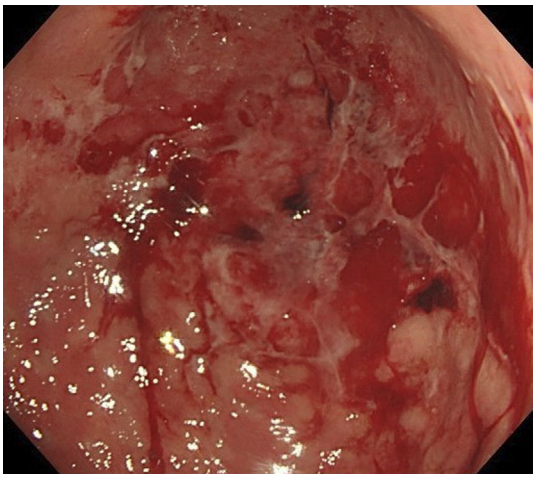
□ PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE □

Gastric Syphilis

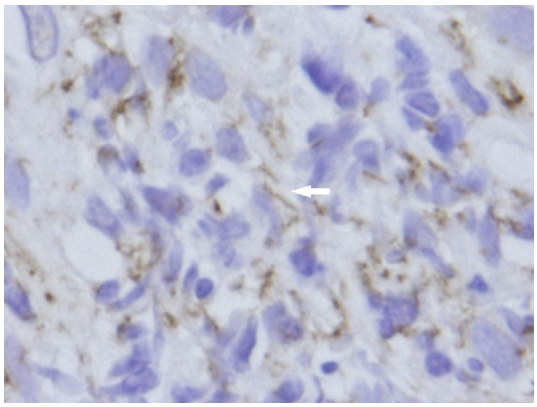
Naoya Itoh[1], Harutaka Katano[2], Shu-ichi Nakayama[3] and Hanako Kurai[1]

Key words: gastric syphilis, *Treponema pallidum*

(Intern Med 56: 1753, 2017)
(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.56.8300)



Picture 1.



Picture 2.

A 48-year-old Japanese man presented with epigastralgia, pyrosis, and regurgitation. A physical examination revealed tenderness in the epigastrium. Rapid plasma reagin and *Treponema pallidum* tests were positive, with titers of 1:64 and 1:10,240, respectively. Gastroscopy revealed multiple geographic, irregular ulcers from the gastric body to the pylorus and duodenum (Picture 1). Gastric biopsies were performed, and a histopathological analysis showed severe inflammatory cell infiltration. Immunohistochemistry (Picture 2), a conventional polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and a real-time PCR showed the presence of *T. pallidum* in the gastric tissues. He was treated with amoxicillin, which led to the resolution of his clinical complaints. Gastric syphilis is usually observed after secondary syphilis, but its incidence is extremely low (1). The endoscopic findings typically reveal mucosal edema, erosion, and superficial ulcers (2). In conclusion, when gastroscopic findings, such as those described in this report, are observed, gastric syphilis should be considered as an important differential diagnosis in view of its nonspecific presentation.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

1. Atten MJ, Attar BM, Teopengco E, Nadimpalli V. Gastric syphilis: a disease with multiple manifestations. Am J Gastroenterol **89**: 2227-2229, 1994.
2. Souza Varella Frazão M, Guimarães Vilaça T, Olavo Aragão Andrade Carneiro F, et al. Endoscopic aspects of gastric syphilis. Case Rep Med **2012**: 646525, 2012.

[1]Division of Infectious Diseases, Shizuoka Cancer Center Hospital, Japan, [2]Department of Pathology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan and [3]Department of Bacteriology I, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan
Received for publication September 22, 2016; Accepted for publication October 18, 2016
Correspondence to Dr. Naoya Itoh, itohnaoya0925@ybb.ne.jp
 Journal Website: http://www.naika.or.jp/imonline/index.html