Asymptomatic Primary Malignant Melanoma of the Gastroesophageal Junction

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We herein report a case of asymptomatic primary malignant melanoma of the gastroesophageal junction that was discovered during a routine medical checkup for cancer. A 75-year-old man was admitted to our hospital to undergo further examinations to investigate a possible tumor of the cardia of the stomach found on an upper gastrointestinal series. Although the patient’s physical examination was unremarkable, an endoscopic biopsy and PET/CT scan revealed that the tumor was a primary malignant melanoma in the gastroesophageal junction (Picture 1, 2). Clinicians consulted with dermatologists as well as ophthalmologists and otorhinolaryngologists for whole body screening, however, other focuses of tumor were not observed. In a manner most consistent with the patient’s wishes, surgical intervention took place immediately after diagnosis (Picture 3). Postoperative immunohistochemical examinations confirmed the di-
agnosis of a malignant melanoma (Picture 4). Despite the unexpectedly early diagnosis, lymph node metastasis as a predictor of the postoperative survival was positive (1), thus suggesting that this case was already at an advanced stage and, as a result, the patient was expected to have a poor prognosis.

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

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Reference