

## Good Prognosis of Early Stage Malignant Melanoma of the Esophagus: A Case Report

Zare-Mehrjardi A<sup>1</sup>, Vahedian-Ardakani J<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, Firoozgar Hospital, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Firoozgar Hospital, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

### ABSTRACT

Malignant melanoma of the esophagus is a rare tumor with poor prognosis. The survival of patients is generally less than one year after diagnosis. A case of primary malignant melanoma of the esophagus is presented, who after radical resection of the tumor, is in excellent health, with no evidence of disease 14 months after surgery.

**Keywords:** Melanoma, Esophagus, Esophageal tumor

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### INTRODUCTION

Malignant melanoma of the esophagus is a rare tumor and accounts for 0.1-0.2% of all benign and malignant tumors in this organ (1). Only 262 cases have been documented by June 2005 worldwide (2). It often presents as a polypoid mass (3) and occurs most frequently in the middle or lower third of esophagus, especially in middle-aged or elder population (4). Prognosis is poor and does not seem to be related to tumor thickness (2). Mean survival period is 8 (5) to 10 (6) months after diagnosis. Long term survival has been exceptional (1,7). Hereby, we report a case of primary esophageal malignant melanoma who is in excellent condition 16 months after resection of the lesion.

### CASE REPORT

A 65 year old male presented with progressive dysphagia since 2 months before and 12 kg

weight loss. There was no history of nausea or vomiting nor any alteration in bowel habits. Endoscopic examination showed 2 masses at 25 cm and 30 cm from incisors. Barium swallow revealed pressure effect in the middle third of esophagus. Ultrasonographic studies of the liver, and chest X-ray were normal. Histopathologic evaluation of biopsy of the esophageal mass was reported as undifferentiated carcinoma. Trans-hiatal total esophagectomy (Orringer procedure) was performed. Esophagus was 13 cm in length, featuring a large polypoid mass in the mid-part, measuring 4.5x2x1.3 cm with a stalk of 0.5 cm in diameter, and another small polyp of 1.5x1.2x0.2 cm, 1.2 cm distal to the first one. Both were ulcerated and showed a pleomorphic tumor composed of polygonal, plump to spindly cells with vesicular nuclei, and large nucleoli (figure 1).

### Corresponding author:

Department of Pathology, Firoozgar Hospital, Beh-Afarin st, Vali-e-asr sq., Tehran, Iran

Tel: +98 21 88942661-4 Fax: +98 21 88942622

E-mail: azaremehrjardi@yahoo.com

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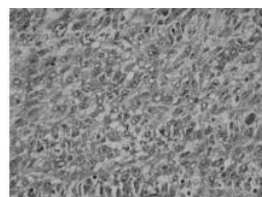


Figure 1: Tumor cells are large, pleomorphic and with distinct nucleoli (x400, H&E).