



Author's reply to the letter to the editor on "A case of gastric signet-ring cell carcinoma with a long-term retrospective follow-up of 17 years"

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Answer

We thank Dr. Nikaido et al. for their valuable comments on our article.

In this study, we retrospectively followed up the course of gastric signet-ring cell carcinoma that developed in a *Helicobacter pylori*-uninfected stomach over a period of 17 years [1].

During this 17-year period, the size of the lesion increased only slightly, and considering morphological changes of the lesion, only slight irregularities appeared in the periphery. Immunohistochemistry showed that the ki-67 labeling index was low at 3.3%, suggesting that cancer growth potency was low.

As suggested by Nikaido et al., we additionally performed TP53 and E-cadherin immunohistochemical staining. As a result, nuclear accumulation of TP53 was not observed in the cancer cells; however, E-cadherin was weakly expressed in the cell membrane of the cancer cells. The expression of E-cadherin in the cancer cells was weaker than that in the surrounding normal cells. These immunohistochemical staining results were similar to those reported by Nikaido et al. [2]. *H. pylori*-uninfected intramucosal signet-ring cell carcinoma is estimated to have a low malignancy clinicopathologically.

Henson DE et al. reported that, in the United States, while the rate of incidence of intestinal type gastric cancer was decreasing, that of diffuse-type gastric cancer—signet ring-cell carcinoma in particular—was increasing [3]. Further accumulation and clinicopathologic and genetic analyses of intramucosal signet-ring cell carcinomas that develop in patients with *H. pylori*-uninfected stomach are warranted.

Declarations

Conflict of Interest Junichi Muraishi, Masaki Miyaoka, Kentaro Imamura, Kensei Ohtsu, Takao Kanemitsu, Ken Kinjo, Toshiharu Ueki, Hiroshi Tanabe, Seiji Haraoka, Satoshi Nimura, Akinori Iwashita and Kenshi Yao declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Human Rights All procedures followed have been performed in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments.

Informed consent was obtained from all patients for being included in the study.

References

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