Cutaneous Metastasis from Primary Gastric Cancer

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Clinical Image

A 91-year-old man was referred to our dermatology clinic for a 3 cm × 2 cm ulcerative nodule at his chin (Figure 1). The lesion had been rapidly growing since approximately 2 months. Biopsy showed skin metastasis originating from a gastric adenocarcinoma. The patient had no fever and did not experience night sweat or weight loss. Computed tomographic scanning of the whole body revealed a gastric tumor with blood vessel infiltration, peritoneal carcinomatosis, pulmonary metastases with pericardium infiltration, and multiple disseminated subcutaneous metastases. The patient refused therapy and died a month after diagnosis. The skin is an unusual location for metastasis from visceral cancers. However, gastric cancer can present as Sister Mary Joseph’s nodule, which is a skin metastasis that is typically umbilically located.

Figure 1: Ulcerative lesion.