A Rare Presentation of SIAD as the Initial Presentation of Gastrointestinal Cancers

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Introduction: The syndrome of inappropriate antidiuresis (SIAD) is a common cause of hyponatremia. Malignancies are one of the most important causes of SIAD and the association with small cell lung cancer is well known, but other cancers are rare. Hyponatremia as initial presentation is also an uncommon feature of malignancy-associated SIAD. We report a rare case with SIAD in a 77-year-old patient as the initial presentation of gastrointestinal cancers.

Case Presentation: A 77-year-old man with a history of chronic kidney disease and anxiety disorder presented with a month history of anorexia and weight loss at the regular follow-up visit. He denied a headache, nausea, and lethargy. Vital signs were normal, and the patient appeared to be euvolume. His laboratory test showed serum Na 114 mEq/L, serum osmolality 232 mOsm/L and urine Na 61 mEq/L. He was diagnosed to have SIAD. His hyponatremia was improved to 135 mEq/L by a fluid restriction on the 7th day after hospitalization. Anorexia also improved. Since there was no apparent cause of SIAD, we plan to exclude malignancies. We found no abnormalities in a non-contrast chest and abdominal CT scan. Since the patients had anorexia, we performed an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and found that the patient had advanced esophageal cancer and early gastric cancer. Subsequent contrast CT scan revealed lymph node metastasis. He referred to another hospital for further treatment of two gastrointestinal tumors.

Discussion: Approximately 20-30% of SIAD cases are related to malignancies and the majority of cases are caused by small cell lung cancer or head and neck cancer. However, several reports suggested that any tumors can cause SIAD. Also, hyponatremia as an initial presentation of malignancy-associated SIAD is rare. In this case, we discovered esophageal cancer and gastric cancer during etiology workup of SIAD. Even if hyponatremia caused by SIAD improved, it is essential to exclude underlying malignancy.