Hypocalcemia in Osteoblastic Metastasis from Gastric Carcinoma

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Introduction:
In general, bone metastasis may produce osteolytic change, osteoblastic or both. Prostate, lung and breast carcinomas often show osteoblastic metastasis. On the other hand, carcinomas of other origins usually provide osteolytic metastasis. Gastric carcinoma rarely shows bone metastasis and uncommonly provides osteoblastic metastasis. Hypercalcemia occurs in 30% of advanced stage of cancer patients. In contrast, paraneoplastic hypocalcemia is very rare condition. We report an unusual case of hypocalcemia in osteoblastic metastasis from gastric carcinoma.

Case:
A 88-year-old man was referred for general malaise, loss of appetite and weight loss experienced over 6 month period. On examination of the patient, the blood pressure was 120/82mmHg, the pulse 75 per minute, the temperature was 36.4°C. The laboratory data showed anemia (Hb 7.0 g/dl), LDH and ALP were elevated to 633 IU/L and 4,461 IU/L. Hypocalcemia of 5.6 mg/dL was also noted, and the corrected calcium value was 7 mg/dL by the correction formula applying 2.3 g/dL of serum albumin. Additional date showed normal 1,25-(OH)2-vitaminD (35.1 PG/ml) and elevated intact-PTH 338 pg/ml. A CT scan revealed disseminated osteoblastic change throughout cervical-thoracic-lumbar spine. Esophagastroduodenoscopy (EGD) showed the gastric wall thickening and the large ulcer in greater curvature and pylorus. Biopsy results revealed Adenocarcinoma groupⅴ. Thoracolumbar MRI showed diffuse low intensity signal in T1 and T2. These findings indicated the presence of gastric adenocarcinoma with osteoblastic metastasis.

Discussion:
Osteoblastic metastases from gastric cancer have been reported only in 12 cases from 1977. Although the mechanism of hypocalcemia needs to be investigated, we experienced a case of hypocalcemia in osteoblastic metastasis from gastric carcinoma.