The pathogenesis of isolated organ vasculitis is unknown, as is why only one organ may be affected. Localised infection has been suggested in limited Wegener's granulomatosis. ANCA's are now being found to have a pathogenetic role in some systemic vasculitides but the absence of ANCA's in most cases of classic polyarteritis nodosa suggests that cell mediated immunity may also be important.

To treat this patient with potentially toxic immunosuppressive therapy with the added risk of sterility, despite the lack of clinical and objective laboratory evidence of systemic disease, was a difficult clinical decision. In view of the high relapse rate associated with polyarteritis nodosa, long term follow up is essential. The absence of serological markers of disease activity, however, may make monitoring of any future relapse difficult.

We are grateful to Mr DMA Wallace and Dr D Adu for permission to report on this patient.

- 1 Huisman TK, Collins WT Jr, Voulgaris GR. Polyarteritis nodosa masquerading as a primary testicular neoplasm; a case report and review of the literature. *J Urol* 1990; 144:1236-8.
- 2 Belville WD, Insalaco SJ, Dresner ML, Buck AS. Benign testis tumours. *J Urol* 1982;128:1198-200.
- 3 Lee LM, Moloney PJ, Wong HCG, Magil AB, McLoughlin MG. Testicular pain: an unusual presentation of polyarteritis nodosa. *J Urol* 1983;129:1243-4.
- 4 Gondos B, Wong TW. Non-neoplastic diseases of the testis and epididymis. In: Murphy W, ed. *Urological pathology*. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1989:249-313.
- 5 Shurbaji MS, Epstein JI. Testicular vasculitis: implications for systemic disease. *Hum Pathol* 1988;19:186-9.
- 6 Womack C, Ansell ID. Isolated arteritis of the epididymis. *J Clin Pathol* 1985;38:797-800.
- 7 Borrie P. Cutaneous polyarteritis nodosa. *Br J Dermatol* 1972;87:87-95.
- 8 Carrington CB, Liebow AA. Limited forms of angiitis and granulomatosis of Wegener's type. *Am J Med* 1966;41: 497-527.
- 9 Gordon M, Luqmani RA, Adu D, Greaves I, Richards N, Michael J, et al. Relapses in patients with a systemic vasculitis. *Q J Med* 1993;86:779-89.
- 10 Adu D, Luqmani RA, Bacon PA. Polyarteritis, Wegener's granulomatosis and Churg-Strauss syndrome. In: Maddison PJ, Isenberg DA, Woo P, Glass DN, eds. *Oxford Textbook of Rheumatology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993:846-59.
- 11 Hayward I, Trambert MA, Mattrey RM, Salzman SL, Demby AM. MR imaging of vasculitis of the testis. *J Comput Assist Tomogr* 1991;15:502-4.

J Clin Pathol 1994;47:1123-1124

Lymphocytic gastritis, gastric adenocarcinoma, and primary gastric lymphoma

A P Griffiths, J Wyatt, A S Jack, M F Dixon

Abstract

A series of primary gastric lymphomas and adenocarcinomas was reviewed to assess the prevalence of lymphocytic gastritis in these conditions. Lymphocytic gastritis was more prevalent in patients with gastric adenocarcinoma (16 of 130 cases; 12.3%) and primary gastric lymphoma (six of 45 cases; 13.7%) than in unselected patients undergoing endoscopy (0.83-2.5%). This suggests that these two disparate gastric tumours may share an immunological dysfunction or a common pathogenesis, and this is of interest given that *Helicobacter pylori* is thought to have a role in the evolution of gastric adenocarcinoma and lymphoma.

(*J Clin Pathol* 1994;47:1123-1124)

varioliform gastritis on endoscopy.¹ Serological evidence of *Helicobacter pylori* infection is present in most, but not all, of these cases,² but the precise link between *H pylori* and lymphocytic gastritis is unknown. A hypertrophic form has been recognised and distinguished from Menetrier's disease.³ Lymphocytic gastritis also occurs in a substantial proportion of patients with coeliac disease.⁴ The disorder affects the whole stomach⁵ and occurs with an incidence of between 0.83 and 2.5% in unselected patients undergoing endoscopy,⁶ and of 4.5% in those with chronic gastritis.²

Concurrent lymphocytic gastritis and primary gastric tumours in resection specimens prompted us to review a series of primary gastric lymphomas and adenocarcinomas to assess the prevalence of lymphocytic gastritis in these conditions.

Methods

Specimens were retrieved from the archives of Leeds General Infirmary and St James's University Hospital, Leeds, and from the Yorkshire Regional Lymphoma Panel. A total of 52 gastric lymphomas were examined, 45 of which had features associated with primary gastric mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma.⁷ We also examined 130 cases of primary gastric adenocarcinoma.

Department of
Histopathology, Neath
General Hospital,
Neath,
West Glamorgan
SA11 2LQ
A P Griffiths

Department of
Histopathology, St
James's University
Hospital, Leeds
J Wyatt

Academic Unit of
Pathological Sciences,
University of Leeds
A S Jack
M F Dixon

Correspondence to:
Dr A P Griffiths

Accepted for publication
10 May 1994

Results

Lymphocytic gastritis was present in six of the 45 (13.7%) MALT lymphoma cases; lymphocytic gastritis was not found in the non-MALT lymphoma cases. Of the 130 cases of adenocarcinoma, 16 (12.3%) had concomitant lymphocytic gastritis. The prevalence of lymphocytic gastritis was the same in cases of intestinal type and diffuse carcinoma.

Discussion

The prevalence of lymphocytic gastritis in both primary gastric MALT lymphoma and gastric adenocarcinoma is clearly much greater than that seen in non-ulcer dyspepsia⁶ and chronic active gastritis.² This suggests that lymphocytic gastritis may be associated with an increased risk of developing lymphoma or carcinoma. It is particularly intriguing that the prevalence of lymphocytic gastritis is similar in both gastric lymphoma and adenocarcinoma given the current hypotheses linking both tumours with *H pylori* infection.

H pylori infection was not determined in this retrospective series because gastrectomy specimens are unsuitable for the histological detection of *H pylori*; this is attributed to reduced sensitivity following suboptimal fixation.⁸ Furthermore, most patients with lymphocytic gastritis are *H pylori* positive despite the absence of the organism on histology.²

Most patients with gastric carcinoma also have chronic gastritis. In a previous study from Leeds some form of chronic gastritis was present in 50 of 52 gastric biopsy specimens taken from sites other than the tumour in patients with gastric adenocarcinoma; however, *H pylori* was detected in only 21 (42%) of these.⁹ This observation agrees with the hypothesis that *H pylori* gastritis is important in the early stages of carcinogenesis, although the organism may no longer be detectable when the tumour is clinically apparent. In 19 patients with gastric adeno-

carcinoma studied using mucosal immunology there was evidence of current or previous *H pylori* infection in 18.¹⁰

That lymphocytic gastritis is not a direct precursor or premalignant phase of primary gastric lymphoma is evident from the fact that the neoplastic lymphocytes in the latter condition are B cells, whilst the intraepithelial lymphocytes in the former are CD8 positive T cells. However, cytokines secreted by T cells in *H pylori* gastritis may promote B cell proliferation.¹¹

Further research on the relation between lymphocytic gastritis, gastric MALT lymphoma, gastric adenocarcinoma, and *H pylori* could yield important clues to the cause and pathogenesis of these conditions.

- 1 Haot J, Delos M, Wallez L, Hardy N, Lenzen B, Jouret-Mourin A. Intra-epithelial lymphocytes in inflammatory gastric pathology. *Acta Endosc* 1986;16:61-7.
- 2 Dixon MF, Wyatt JL, Burke DA, Rathbone BJ. Lymphocytic gastritis—relationship to Campylobacter pylori infection. *J Pathol* 1988;154:125-32.
- 3 Wolfen HC, Carpenter HA, Talley NJ. Menetrier's disease: a form of hypertrophic gastropathy or gastritis? *Gastroenterology* 1993;104:1310-9.
- 4 Wolber R, Owen D, Del Buono L, Appelman H, Freeman H. Lymphocytic gastritis in patients with celiac sprue or spruelike intestinal disease. *Gastroenterology* 1990;98:310-5.
- 5 Rubio CA, Befritz R, Eriksson B, Christensson B, Duvander A, Larsson B. The topographic distribution of lymphocytic gastritis in gastrectomy specimens. *Acta Pathol Microbiol Immunol Scand* 1991;99:815-9.
- 6 Jaskiewicz K, Price SK, Zak J, Louwrens HD. Lymphocytic gastritis in non ulcer dyspepsia. *Dig Dis Sci* 1991;36:1079-83.
- 7 Wright DH, Isaacson PG. Gut-associated lymphoid tumours. In: Whitehead R, ed. *Gastrointestinal and oesophageal pathology*. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1989:643-61.
- 8 Wyatt JL, Gray SF. Detection of Helicobacter pylori by histology. In: Rathbone BJ, Heatley RV, eds. *Helicobacter pylori and gastroduodenal disease*. 2nd edn. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1992:51-7.
- 9 Rathbone BJ, Wyatt JL. Campylobacter pylori and precancerous conditions. In: Reed PI, Hill MJ, eds. *Gastric carcinogenesis*. Proceedings of the 6th Annual Symposium of the European Organisation for Cooperation in Cancer Prevention Studies. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica, 1988:137-44.
- 10 Crabtree JE, Wyatt JL, Sobala GM, Miller G, Tompkins DS, Primrose JN, et al. Systemic and mucosal humoral responses to Helicobacter pylori in gastric cancer. *Gut* 1993;34:1339-43.
- 11 Hussell T, Isaacson P, Crabtree JE, Spencer J. The response of cells from low grade B cell gastric lymphomas of mucosa associated lymphoid tissue to Helicobacter pylori. *Lancet* 1993;342:571-4.