

Cardiac tamponade and gastric adenocarcinoma

To the Editor,

A recent report on “Cardiac tamponade as the first clinical sign of gastric adenocarcinoma: a rare condition” is very interesting.^[1] Arisoy et al. concluded “physicians should be aware of malignancy of the stomach when patients present with unexplained cardiac manifestations.”^[1] Indeed, the cardiac tamponade due to malignant effusion can be seen in any malignancy (such as vaginal^[2] or endometrial^[3] adenocarcinoma). The important consideration is on the history-taking and early diagnosis of cardiac tamponade.^[2] As noted by Roy et al., “a pulsus paradoxus >10 mmHg among patients with pericardial effusion helps distinguish those with cardiac tamponade from those without.”^[4] Focusing on gastric adenocarcinoma, the pericardial involvement can be seen and result in pericardial effusion. However, not all cases will end up with cardiac tamponade. In addition, sometimes, only carcinomatous pericarditis can be seen.^[5] Furthermore, it should be noted that not all pericardial effusions in the patients with gastric adenocarcinoma are malignant.^[6] Sometimes, the rare infection in the patients with gastric cancers, who are immunocompromised, can be seen.^[6]

Saitin Sim, M.D., Viroj Wiwanitkit, M.D.[#]

Medical Center, Shantou, China
[#]Hainan Medical University, China
 e-mail: simsaitin@gmail.com

Conflict-of-interest issues regarding the authorship or article: None declared

References

1. Arisoy A, Memiç K, Karavelioğlu Y, Sen F. Cardiac tamponade as the first clinical sign of gastric adenocarcinoma: a rare condition. *Türk Kardiyol Dern Ars* 2014;42:377-9. [CrossRef](#)
2. Nagarsheth NP, Harrison M, Kalir T, Rahaman J. Malignant pericardial effusion with cardiac tamponade in a patient with metastatic vaginal adenocarcinoma. *Int J Gynecol Cancer* 2006;16:1458-61. [CrossRef](#)
3. Kheterpal P, Singh M, Mondul A, Dharmarajan L, Soni A. Malignant pericardial effusion and cardiac tamponade in endometrial adenocarcinoma. *Gynecol Oncol* 2001;83:143-5.
4. Roy CL, Minor MA, Brookhart MA, Choudhry NK. Does this patient with a pericardial effusion have cardiac tamponade? *JAMA* 2007;297:1810-8. [CrossRef](#)
5. Kuga Y, Okanobu H, Kitamura S, Yoshifuku Y, Nakamura Y, Hirano T, et al. A case of advanced gastric cancer with carcinomatous pericarditis effectively treated by S-1/CDDP combined therapy. [Article in Japanese] *Gan To Kagaku Ryoho* 2013;40:87-9. [Abstract]
6. Tan CK, Lai CC, Kuar WK, Hsueh PR. Purulent pericarditis with greenish pericardial effusion caused by *Shewanella* algae. *J Clin Microbiol* 2008;46:2817-9. [CrossRef](#)

doi: 10.5543/tkda.2014.80549

© 2014 Turkish Society of Cardiology

