

CASE REPORT

Giant gastric folds in a patient with hypoalbuminaemia

Jurgen Gerada,¹ Elaine Borg,² James DeGaetano,² James Pocock¹

¹Division of Gastroenterology, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida, Malta

²Department of Histopathology, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida, Malta

Correspondence to
Dr Jurgen Gerada,
jurgen.gerada@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION

A 70-year-old man presented with a 3-month history of persistent epigastric pain, 8 kg weight loss and lower limb swelling. Examination revealed a normal abdomen and bilateral lower limb oedema. Blood results were unremarkable except for hypoalbuminaemia (23 g/l) and peripheral eosinophilia ($1.06 \times 10^9/l$). Urinalysis and CT of the abdomen were negative. An oesophagogastroduodenoscopy (OGD) revealed large gastric folds involving the fundus and the body of the stomach (figure 1), and a small antral polyp. Histology showed marked reactive mucosal changes, pronounced foveolar hyperplasia and cystic dilatation (figure 2), compatible with a diagnosis of Ménétrier's disease. *Helicobacter pylori* was absent and the antral polyp was adenomatous. He was given omeprazole and prednisolone (20 mg daily), which was tailed down after 2 months. Subsequently, his symptoms improved significantly. He regained 10 kg in weight and his albumin levels normalised. OGD done post therapy and 1 year later still showed prominent, but less pronounced, gastric folds, and histological evidence of hyperplastic gastropathy.

The current treatment options to manage Ménétrier's disease include testing and treating cytomegalovirus and *H pylori* infection, proton pump inhibitor or histamine-2 receptor blocker, octreotide, monoclonal antibodies to epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and gastrectomy.¹ Corticosteroid use in this setting has been reported very rarely, successfully in a 69-year-old male patient,² but not so in a 4-year-old boy.³ To our knowledge, our case is the

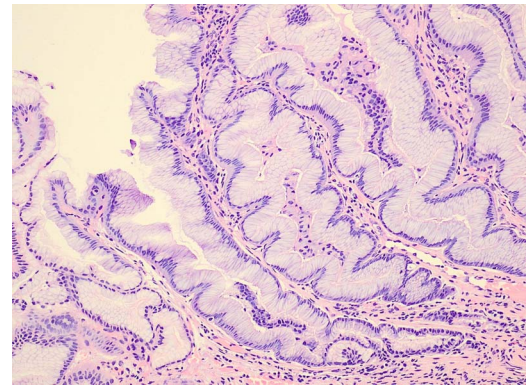


Figure 2 Hyperplastic gastropathy showing pronounced foveolar hyperplasia.

second case to have responded to steroids. Hence, one might consider this treatment before other expensive treatments like anti-EGFR therapy.

Learning points

- ▶ Ménétrier's disease is a rare condition and a high level of suspicion should be maintained when a patient presents with upper gastrointestinal symptoms, hypoalbuminaemia and giant gastric folds at endoscopy.
- ▶ Ménétrier's disease affects men three times as much as women and is known to predispose to gastric carcinoma.
- ▶ Corticosteroid use might be an alternative to treat this condition.

Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

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Figure 1 Giant gastric folds of the body of the stomach.

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