INTERNAL MEDICINE

□ PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE □

Left Atrial Metastasis of Renal Cell Carcinoma

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Key words: renal cell carcinoma, metastasis, left atrium

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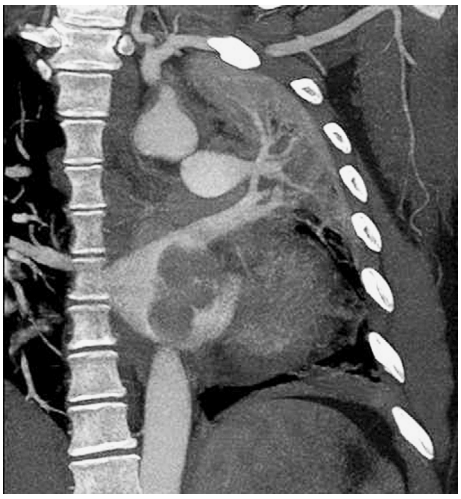
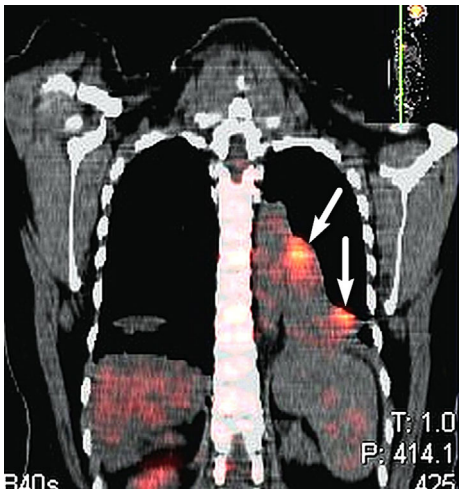
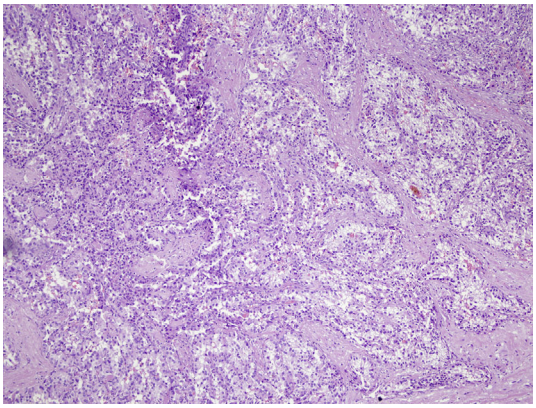


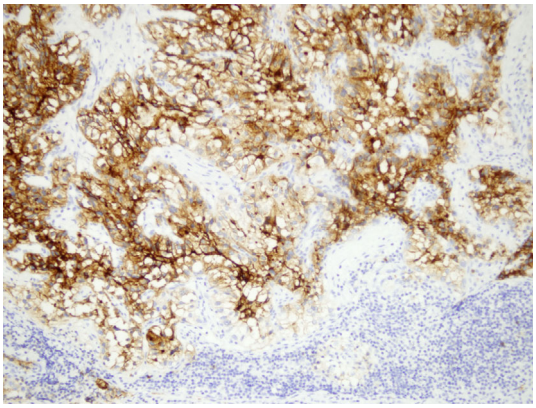
Picture 1.



Picture 2.



Picture 3a.



Picture 3b.

Cardiac metastases of renal cell carcinoma (RCC) are relatively rare. Most cases of RCC extend into the right atrium through the inferior vena cava (IVC) (1); however, left atrial metastasis from RCC without involvement of the right heart is extremely rare. A 48-year-old woman presented with coughing and hemoptysis. She had undergone left nephrectomy for RCC eight years earlier. The D-dimer level was 756 μg/L. Computed tomography revealed a tumor

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in the left lower lobe of the lungs extending intraluminally from the left inferior pulmonary vein into the left atrium (LA) (Picture 1). However, no evidence of right ventricular or IVC involvement was found. Furthermore, on positron emission tomography, hypermetabolic foci were detected in the lungs and LA (Picture 2, arrows). Surgical resection was offered to the patient; however, she refused the procedure. Recurrence of RCC was confirmed on transthoracic lung and transbronchial lymph node biopsies (Picture 3a), which revealed CD10 (+) malignant cells (Picture 3b). Currently, the patient is being followed up by the oncology department under sunitinib treatment.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

Reference

1. Zustovich F, Gottardo F, De Zorzi L, et al. Cardiac metastasis from renal cell carcinoma without inferior vena involvement: a review of the literature based on a case report: two different patterns of spread? Int J Clin Oncol **13**: 271-274, 2008.