Thyroid as a target of metastases. A case of foregut neuroendocrine carcinoma with multiple abdominal metastases and a thyroid localization after 21 years

Franco Mattavelli¹, Paola Collini², Natalia Pizzi¹, Carlo Gervasoni³, Elisabetta Pennacchioli⁴, Vincenzo Mazzaferro⁵, and the Thyroid Cancer Study Group of INT, Milan

¹Otorhinolaryngology Unit, ²Department of Pathology, ³Melanoma and Sarcoma Unit, and ⁴Hepatobiliary-Pancreatic Surgery Unit, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milan; ⁵Maxillofacial Unit, San Gerardo Hospital-Bicocca University, Monza (Milan), Italy

ABSTRACT

The thyroid gland is quite often the target of metastases. For this reason any thyroid nodule in a patient with a previous history of cancer needs to be evaluated. In case of thyroid metastases, the site of the primary tumor is most often the breast, lung or kidney. A thyroid metastasis from a foregut neuroendocrine tumor is very unusual and requires a differential diagnosis with primary neuroendocrine tumor of the gland itself, i.e., a medullary thyroid carcinoma. This case report is peculiar because of the multiple sites of abdominal relapses, the long time interval between relapses (21 years), and the positive outcome after surgical treatment.

Key words: foregut neuroendocrine carcinoma, thyroid metastases, thyroid surgery.

Correspondence to: Franco Mattavelli, SC ORL, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori di Milano, Via Venezian 1, 20133 Milano, Italy.
e-mail franco.mattavelli@istitutotumori.mi.it

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