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Neuroendocrine tumor metastatic to breast: case report and review of the literature

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BACKGROUND

We report a case of a patient with an ileocecal neuroendocrine tumor (NET) metastatic to both breasts, for whom the initial clinical presentation was chronic diarrhea. Breast metastases were initially suspected by a 68-Gallium DOTANOC PET/CT and were confirmed by histopathology. We also performed a comprehensive (non-systematic) literature review through which we identified 116 cases of NENs metastatic to breast.

METHODS

Case report and comprehensive (non-systematic) literature review.

RESULTS

We performed a comprehensive (non-systematic) literature review through which we identified 116 reported cases of NENs metastatic to the breast, nearly all from case reports or case series. We found that many features of our case were compatible with previous reports: mean age of breast metastases report was 56 years, 89% of cases were caused by NETs, while 11% were NECs, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

We report a patient with an ileocecal NET metastatic to both breasts. A comprehensive (non-systematic) review of all cases of breast metastases from NENs indicates that most cases correspond to NETs and originate in the digestive tract. Also, there appears to be no preferred laterality for breast metastases. A correct diagnosis is of paramount importance for proper treatment. To this end, functional imaging, and histology (supported by immunohistochemistry) are of great value.

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