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Small bowel ischemia in patients with midgut neuroendocrine tumors after treatment with ¹⁷⁷Lutetium-Dotatate

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BACKGROUND

¹⁷⁷Lutetium (Lu)-Dotatate is a safe and well tolerated treatment for metastatic gastroenteropancreatic (GEP) NETs. However, radiation can cause transient inflammation/swelling of tumors which can result in toxicity. Treatment-related small bowel obstruction associated with mesenteric or peritoneal disease has been described. We investigated the potential for intestinal ischemia in ¹⁷⁷Lu-Dotatate treated patients.

METHODS

Clinical records of patients with midgut NETs treated with ¹⁷⁷Lu-Dotatate at our institution between April 2018 and December 2022 were reviewed.

RESULTS

Among the cases reviewed, we identified 2 patients who developed bowel ischemia/perforation shortly after their initial treatment with ¹⁷⁷Lu-Dotatate. Both patients had metastatic small bowel NET with prominent mesenteric mass encasing/obstructing the mesenteric vessels and preexisting symptoms of post-prandial abdominal pain.

CONCLUSIONS

Acute bowel ischemia may be a rare complication of PRRT in patients with mesenteric arterial or venous obstruction from mesenteric metastasis.

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