

## A metastatic melanoma of the small intestine diagnosed by single-balloon enteroscopy

To the Editor,

A 67-year-old woman presented at our hospital with lower abdominal pain. Her medical history included radiation therapy three years previously for the treatment of a malignant melanoma of the nasal sinuses. On examination, tenderness in the lower abdomen was observed, but no palpable mass was identified. The patient's laboratory data were normal except for the presence of anemia (hemoglobin, 10.0 g/dL). Gastroscopy and colonoscopy were performed, but no significant findings were obtained. Enhanced computed tomography revealed a circumscribed wall thickening of the small intestine with significant dilation on the oral side of the lesion. Single-balloon enteroscopy was performed. A circumferential whitish and partially grayish tumor was observed in the ileum 90 cm from the Bauhin valve (Figure 1). Biopsy confirmed the mass as malignant melanoma, and the specimen was positive for S-100, vimentin and HMB45 and negative for cytokeratin. Based on these results and the patient's past

medical history, the tumor was diagnosed as metastatic malignant melanoma of the small intestine.

The single-balloon enteroscope (SBE), a new instrument from Olympus Medical Systems Corp (Tokyo, Japan) (1,2), does not have a balloon at the distal end, in contrast to the double-balloon enteroscope (DBE) (3). The SBE system requires less preparation time than the DBE system (2). However, the DBE system is associated with higher success rates for endoscopic observation of the entire small intestine compared to the SBE system (2). The clinical superiority of the DBE system has not been clearly established, and comparative studies are ongoing.

Melanoma is the most common tumor to metastasize to the gastrointestinal tract (4,5), particularly the small intestine (6). We report the first diagnosis of metastatic melanoma of the small intestine using single-balloon enteroscopy.

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**Figure 1.** Single-balloon enteroscopy revealed a circumferential whitish and partially grayish tumor in the ileum 90 cm from the Bauhin valve.

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