

Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology at Rush

1750 W. Harrison St., Suite 570, Chicago, IL 60612 ♦ (312) 942-5227 phone ♦ (312) 942-4228 fax

Case of the Month – October 2008

Contributed by Drs. Ajay Patel and Shriram Jakate

Diagnosis: Submucosal heterotopic pancreatic tissue (Pancreatic rest).

Endoscopic gastric biopsies show heterotopic pancreatic tissue within the submucosa consistent with a pancreatic rest. The overlying antral mucosa shows congestion, mucosal prolapse and mild nonspecific gastritis.

Pancreatic rests (prevalence of 1-2%) are nodules of normal pancreatic tissue which occur in the gastric or intestinal wall. In children and young adults, these lesions may be congenital. Patients usually present incidentally or with a mass. In the stomach, these rests usually occur in the antrum or pylorus with a propensity for the prepyloric region. It is associated with chronic gastritis and intestinal metaplasia. Clinical symptoms usually correlate with the extent of mucosal involvement and the size of the lesion. The localized inflammation may actually lead to obstruction. Grossly, it is a round, submucosal nipple-like lesion that has a dimpled center corresponding to the excretory duct. The cut surface resembles normal pancreas. Microscopically, these rests are located in the submucosa or muscularis propria and are composed of exocrine glands and ducts with varying amounts of islet cells. Rarely, they are composed of endocrine components only.

References:

1. D. Popiolek, E. Kahn, J. Markowitz, F. Daum . Prevalence and pathogenesis of pancreatic acinar tissue at the gastroesophageal junction in children and young adults. *Arch Pathol Lab Med.* 2000; 124: 1165-7.
2. S. Ming, H. Goldman. Pathology of the Gastrointestinal Tract. 2nd Ed. Baltimore, MD: Williams & Wilkins, 1998.