Importance of Multidetector Computed Tomography in the Diagnosis of a Small Intestinal Tumor

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Dear Sir,

A 35-year-old man was admitted to our hospital with complaints of vomiting, loss of appetite and weight loss. Abdominal X-ray revealed small bowel gas and airfluid level. Horizontal and coronal sections of multidetector computed tomography (MDCT) revealed an obstruction in the upper small intestine and an expansion of the oral side (fig. 1). The horizontal section was particularly suitable to identify the lesion and its relationship to surrounding organs. A small intestinal tumor was suspected, so single-balloon endoscopy was performed. A type 2 tumor was located 100 cm distal to the pylorus ring. Partial small-bowel resection was carried out, and the tumor was 6 × 2.5 cm in diameter macroscopically. The tumor was a proliferating well-differentiated adenocarcinoma with a partially formed comb-like lumen, and it had invaded the serous membrane.

CT plays an important role in the diagnosis of patients with acute abdominal pain, and especially MDCT can evaluate the small intestine in detail [1]. The thin-slice imaging that is possible with MDCT is most effective in identifying regions of intestinal obstruction [2]. Coronal section imaging by MDCT is useful for specifying the location of the lesion and making a qualitative diagnosis.

References

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Fig. 1. Computed tomography (coronal section) view reveals the obstruction in the upper small intestine and the expansion of the oral side.