Background: Gastrointestinal tract is the most common site of extranodal involvement in lymphoma. Most common gastrointestinal lymphoma is diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), while primary gastrointestinal small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) are very rare. Small lymphocytic lymphoma occurs mostly in elderly patients.

Case report: A thirty four year female presented with dyspepsia and post prandial fullness since two months. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed multiple small nodules in the stomach and two nodules each measuring 1cm at D1-D2 junction. Ultrasonography abdomen and CECT abdomen were normal. Endoscopic biopsies were taken from the gastric as well as duodenal nodules.

Histopathology: Biopsy from all the nodules revealed dense population of intermediate sized mononuclear cells with hyperchromatic nuclei. No large cell transformation was seen. Immunohistochemistry depicted CD 20 and CD23 positivity while CD10, CD3 and cyclin D1 were negative. Peripheral smear examination and bone marrow biopsy were within normal limits. The findings were consistent with primary small lymphocytic lymphoma.

Discussion: • GIT is most common extranodal site involved by lymphoma with majority being MALT type. • Primary gastrointestinal lymphoma constitute 4-5% of all gastrointestinal malignancies. • Most common site of occurrence is stomach (60-75%) followed by small intestine (20-80%) and ileocecal regions (6-12%) • DLBCL is most common pathological type of GI lymphoma, followed by Mantle cell lymphoma, MALT and follicular lymphoma. SLL arises very rarely as primary lymphoma. As per one study, SLL was found to be 4.7% among primary gastrointestinal lymphoma.1 • Primary small lymphocytic lymphoma with no hematolymphoid involvement is very sparsely reported in english literature. • Age of presentation varies according to histological subtype. SLL is seen in elderly patients (>60 years), but our patient was only 34 years old • Although some radiological features such as bulky lymph nodes and maintenance of fat plane are more suggestive of lymphoma, they are not specific, thus mandating histological analysis for its definitive diagnosis

Conclusion: Primary small lymphocytic lymphoma of gastrointestinal tract is a rare hematolymphoid neoplasm which may present as multifocal disease.

References: 