Diagnosis- Non Hodgkin's lymphoma - Gastric MALTOMA

Learning Points:

1. Gastric MALTOMA is an uncommon neoplasm of stomach, often presenting with non-specific symptoms and seen as a diffuse growth occupying the wall of stomach.
2. Studies have revealed the role of Helicobacter pylori as an etiological factor and has a strong role in lymphomagenesis.
3. H. pylori and H. pylori-specific T cells stimulate the macrophages to produce APRIL - a novel cytokine which is crucial in sustaining B-cell proliferation and is expressed in high levels by MALT lymphomas.
4. H. pylori can also translocate the CagA protein directly into B-cells resulting in extracellular signal-regulated kinase activation and Bcl-2 expression up-regulation, leading to apoptosis inhibition.
5. Although, CagA positive strains are most commonly associated with DLBL. Genetics also play a role.
6. TNF-857T allele is found associated with low grade MALTOMA.
7. These are characteristically low grade neoplasm and show typical Lymphoepithelial lesions (LEL) on histology.
8. MALTOMAS don't have a specific antigenic profile and are CD20+, CD5+; CD10-, CD23- and cyclin D1 (marginal zone B cell phenotype).
9. The eradication of H. pylori can make the low grade lymphomas even regress completely.
10. References:

    - MALT lymphoma: epidemiology, clinical diagnosis and treatment. Philip P V et al. J Med Life. 2018 Jul-Sep; 11(3): 187–193. doi: 10.25122/jml-2018-0035
    - Gastric MALT lymphoma presented with primary perforation in an adolescent: a case report. Chang Y et al. BMC pediatrics 19, article no. 63 (2019).
