Gastric lymphoma, *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric amyloidosis

With reference to the article by Das *et al.*,1 I would like to clarify that serum electrophoresis and urine Bence Jones proteins are not enough to rule out primary AL amyloidosis or other plasma cell dyscrasia. It is essential to do an immunofixation assay (which is a more sensitive method of detection of M protein) and a free light chain assay (as primary AL amyloidosis is due to light chain deposition, kappa in this case), both in serum and urine.2

The amyloid deposit is not due to chronic *H. pylori* infection, as correctly pointed out by the authors. The demonstration of kappa light chains in the amyloid confirms primary amyloid; the amyloidogenic protein in secondary amyloidosis due to chronic infections is serum amyloid A (SAA), an acute-phase reactant produced in response to inflammation.3 Demonstration of monoclonal population of kappa light chain-producing cells by immunohistochemistry would be additional proof that the amyloid has been produced by the lymphoma.

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References


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