Reviewer's report

Title: Acute gastric dilatation due to a superior mesenteric artery syndrome: an autopsy case

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Reviewer: Yong Sung Kim

Reviewer's report:

This paper reported unusual case of acute gastric dilatation. It was very interesting case, however there were several issues to be pointed.

Major

1. Please comment that there was no other possible cause of death in the autopsy. When she was found dead, a large amount of dark brown vomit was found on the floor around her. As a clinician, I suspect the possibility of asphyxia by vomitus. Is there any evidence of asphyxia in the autopsy?

2. Authors described that "For the cause of the gastric dilation, intestinal occlusion by the SMA at the third portion of duodenum was suspected."

However, she had never complained symptoms suggesting SMA syndrome. And duodenum distal to SMA seemed to somewhat dilated in figure 2.

So I think that excessive eating of large food was main cause of gastric dilatation and the narrowing duodenum (not occlusion) could be a aggravation factor for gastric dilatation, not leading cause.

I agree with author's summary "an excessively large mass of food in the narrowed duodenal lumen also promoted the development of acute gastric dilatation in this case of SMA syndrome"

3. Authors described that "The root of the mesentery was thickened and adhered to the duodenum, which also reduced the duodenal motility (Fig.2). In addition to these findings, a reduction of peristalsis in the duodenum might have enhanced gastric dilatation in this case."

However, it cannot be assumed whether "motility" or "peristaltis" was really impaired by thickened mesentery by only autopsy finding in this patient.

In addition, she had no previous gastrointestinal symptoms and was well nourished.

Autopsy finding just showed narrowing of duodenum by thickened mesentery and SMA.

Thank you

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests