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Rare Presentation of elevated CEA: Urachal Adenocarcinoma

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Objective:
Urachal adenocarcinoma is a rare form of bladder tumour. Due to its location and the tendency for urothelial invasion in later stages, patients often present with haematuria only at advanced stages. In some early cases, patients may exhibit urinary frequency and urgency due to the mass effect of the tumour. This study aims to present a case with an atypical presentation characterized by elevated carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) levels.

Patients & Methods:
We report the case of a 65-year-old gentleman who initially presented with an elevated CEA level of 75 during a routine health check. A colonoscopy was performed, which revealed only a colonic polyp. Subsequently, a PET-CT scan was arranged, revealing a 9 cm urachal tumour suspected of invading the bladder, with no other metastatic lesions identified. Upon further questioning, the patient disclosed a history of slight urinary frequency over the past few months, although he was uncertain about the severity of this symptom.

Results:
The patient underwent laparoscopic excision of the urachal tumour, partial cystectomy, and umbilical resection. A Foley catheter was placed for two weeks, and a cystogram confirmed no leakage of urine before its removal. Postoperatively, CEA levels were re-evaluated and showed a significant decrease.

Conclusion:
Urachal carcinoma can remain asymptomatic even when it reaches a considerable size. Elevated CEA levels may serve as an atypical presentation of this condition, highlighting the importance of awareness among clinicians regarding this rare manifestation.