A 74-year-old man with recurrent duodenal ulcers underwent somatostatin receptor scintigraphy (SRS) in suspicion of gastrinoma. A 2-cm area of focal uptake was visualized within the pancreatic head. Serum chromogranin A levels were elevated, but serum gastrin levels and the secretin test were normal. Computed tomography and endoscopic ultrasonography were not conclusive. After partial duodenopancreatectomy, pathological examination failed to reveal any neuroendocrine tumor. Instead, the dorsal portion of the pancreatic head was found to be densely populated by pancreatic polypeptide cell-rich islets. This area correlated with the site of tracer uptake seen on SRS. Thus, pancreatic polypeptide cell-rich islets in elderly patients should be kept in mind when interpreting SRS results to avoid unnecessary major pancreatic resections.
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