

# A rare presentation of breast cancer



Figueiredo, L.M.; Horta, D.; Reis, J.  
Gastroenterology Department– Hospital Professor Doutor Fernando Fonseca



## Introduction

Breast cancer is the most common tumor in women.<sup>1</sup> Its lobular variant is the second most frequent type of invasive breast cancer, with a prevalence rate of 5–15%.<sup>2</sup> Gastrointestinal tract metastases are a rare occurrence,<sup>1,2,3</sup> although more frequent in lobular histology. The reason is unknown, but can be related to a particular tropism of lobular cells.<sup>2</sup>

## Case report

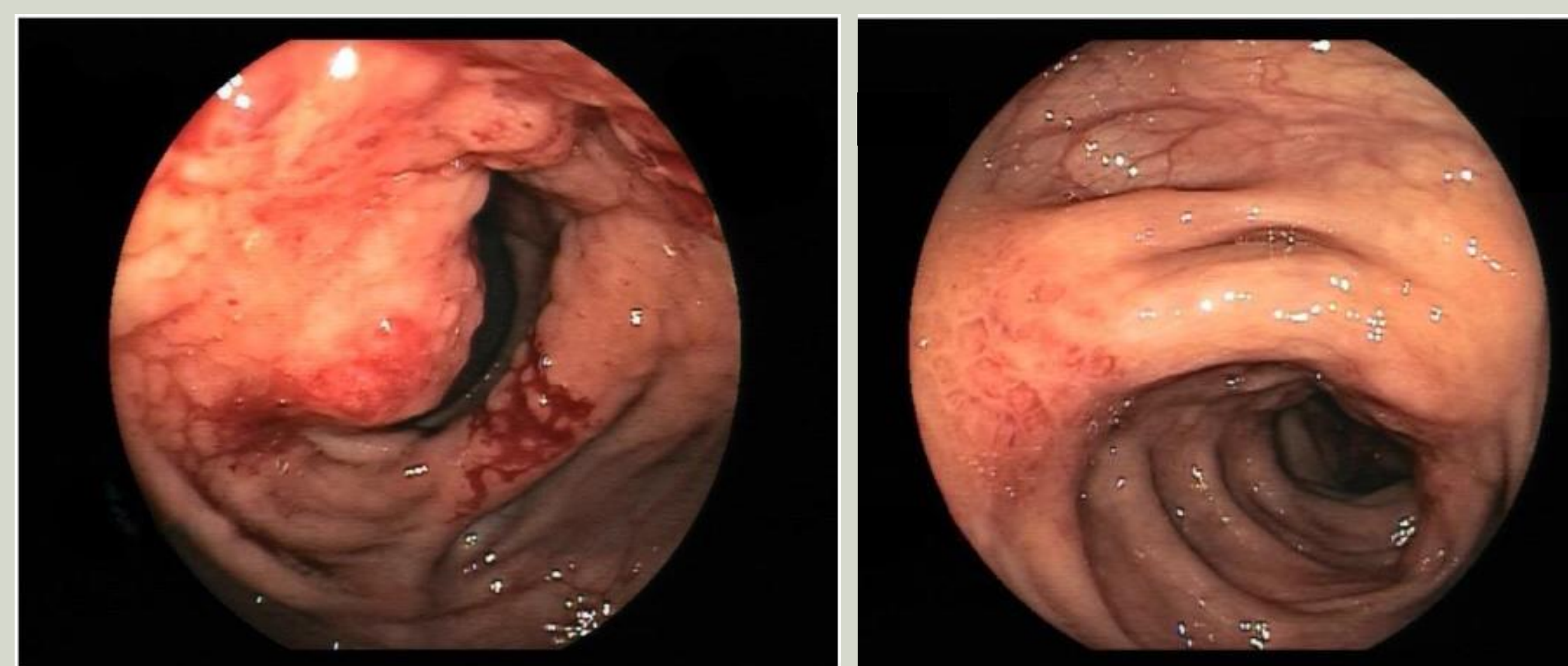
### Identification

- ❖ 43-year-old woman
- ❖ no previous medical history or medication
- ❖ maternal grandmother and aunts with breast cancer.
- ❖ breast ultrasound 3 months before with no signs suggesting malignancy

### Anamnesis

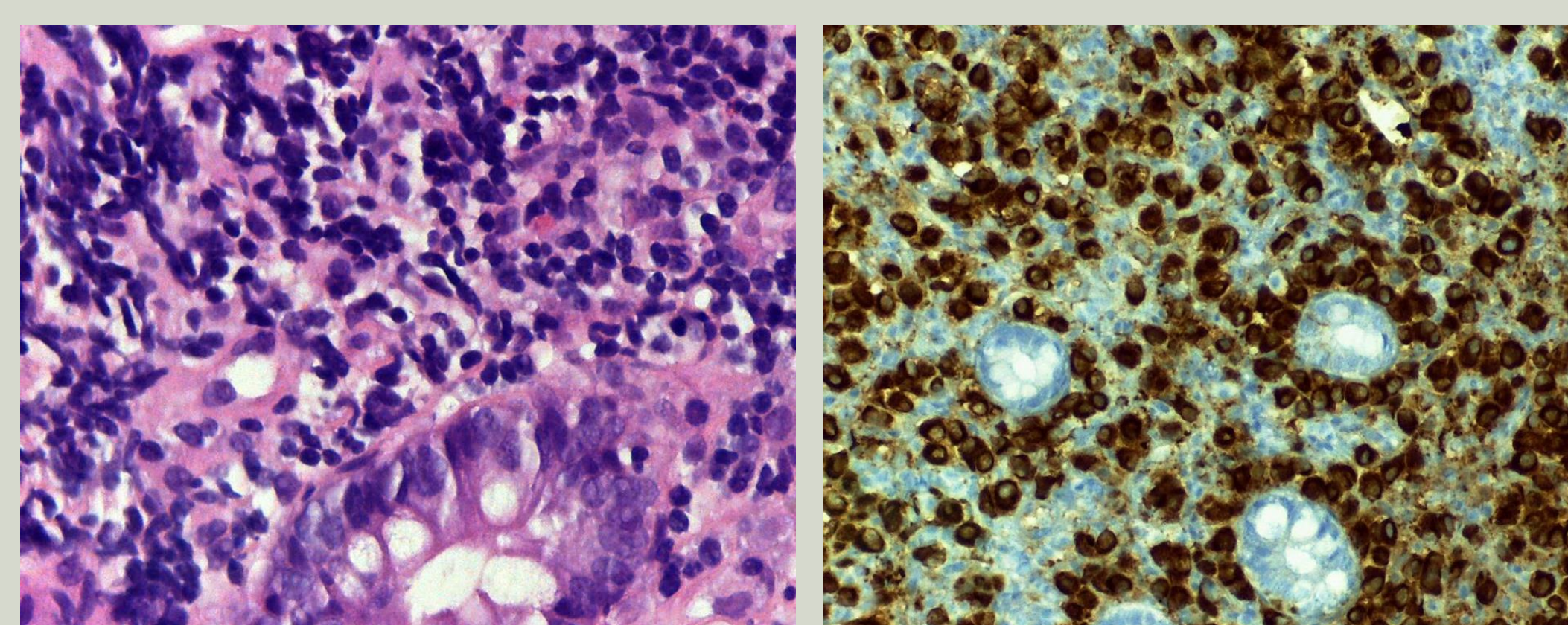
Two-month history of nausea, postprandial epigastric pain, constipation and unspecified weight loss. Left palpebral ptosis. Computed Tomography of the orbit revealed pseudo-tumor.

### Total Colonoscopy



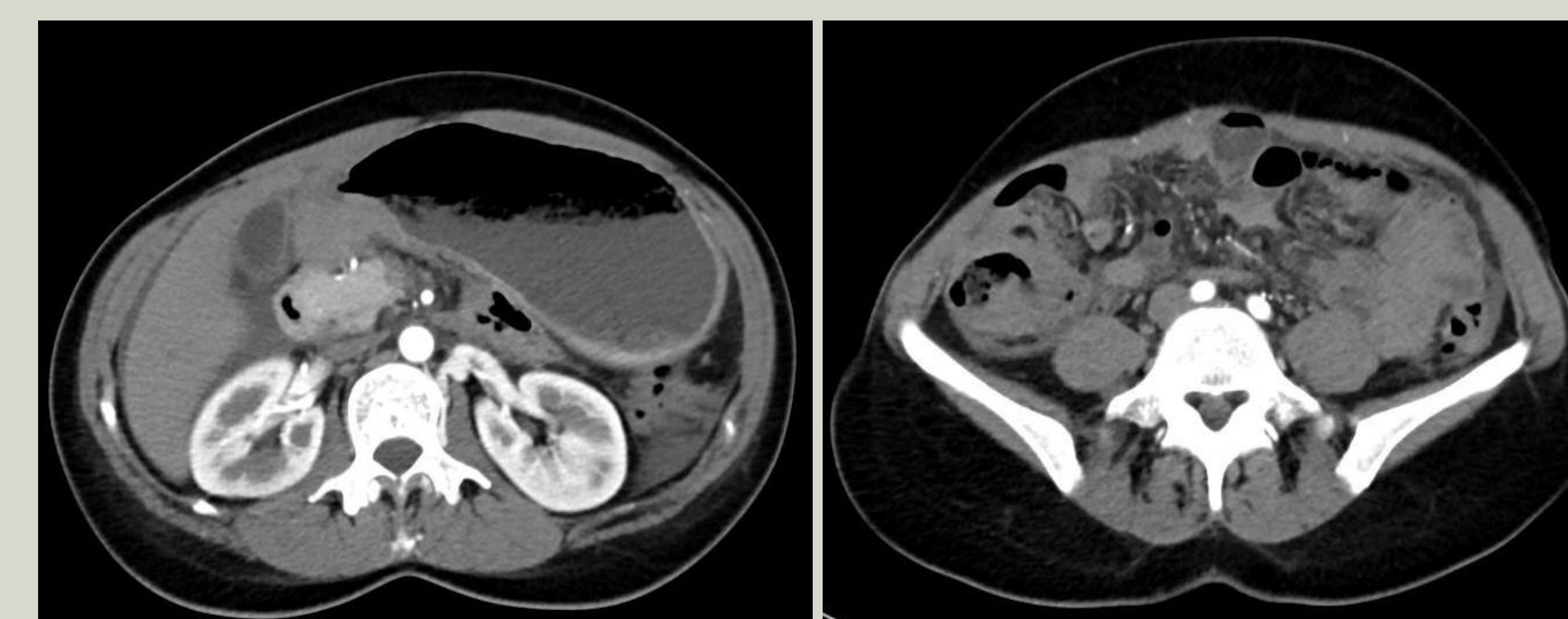
Areas of oedema, erythema, hard to the touch of the biopsy forceps in the ascending and transverse colon, hepatic and splenic flexures.

### Histology



Colon infiltration by lobular breast cancer

### Contrast-enhanced thoraco-abdominopelvic computed tomography



Stomach with parietal thickening in the pyloric region

Colic parietal thickening more evident in transverse

### Mammography and Breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Biopsies: invasive lobular carcinoma.

Chemotherapy and radiotherapy to the orbit

## Conclusion

Only 5% to 15% of breast cancer patients have distant metastases at diagnosis.<sup>4</sup> Metastases of lobular breast cancer are commonly encountered at the level of lungs, bones, brain and liver, whereas lesions in the gastrointestinal tract are rarely seen.<sup>1, 2</sup> The stomach and the small intestine are the most common metastatic sites of lobular carcinoma, whereas large intestine metastases are very rare.<sup>2,4</sup> The median interval between the diagnosis and the development of GI metastasis was reported to be six years<sup>3</sup> Given all the aspects mentioned, the authors consider that this is an extremely rare case.