In Reply.—We thank Drs Andea, Lucas, Cheng, and Adsay for their interest in our article and for providing an additional case of coexistence of stromal and epithelial tumors in the stomach. Interestingly, this case is characterized by the synchronous occurrence of multiple mesenchymal tumors with a carcinoid and by the presence of pancreatic acinar cell metaplasia in the antral mucosa, a finding that had not been observed in any of the 6 cases that we reported previously.

Whether factors other than chance can explain the association of tumors of different histotypes in the stomach or another organ, is simply matter of speculation. In our series, 6 (8.45%) of 52 stomachs with gastric stromal tumors harbored a synchronous epithelial neoplasia (adenocarcinoma or carcinoid). Is the frequency of this association higher than expected by chance in an area that exhibits moderately high incidence rates of gastric cancer, such as the Modena Province in Northern Italy? The question cannot yet be answered with certainty because of the lack of available data on the incidence of gastric stromal tumors in the general population. The great majority of gastric stromal tumors are benign or borderline and, as such, are not recorded in cancer registries.1

We agree with Andea et al when they state that the coexistence of multiple stromal tumors with a submucosal lipoma and an antral carcinoid may support the theory of a common pathogenesis, more than that of a mere coincidence. We hope increasingly sophisticated analyses of tumor tissues will be able to unveil pathogenetic mechanisms other than chance to explain such unusual associations.

ANTONIO MAIORANA, MD
ANNA MARIA CESINARO, MD
RITA ADRIANA FANO, PhD
Sezione di Anatomia Patologica
Dipartimento di Scienze Morfologiche e Medico-Legali
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
Modena, Italy
ROSSELLA FANTE, MD
Servizio di Anatomia Patologica
Ospedale Poma
Mantova, Italy

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