Shifting blue hue sign: an unusual endoscopic finding in a patient suspected of having gastrointestinal blood loss

A 75-year-old man presented to the emergency department with lower abdominal pain for 4 days. He had a history of atrial fibrillation for which he used rivaroxaban. He did not report any trauma. He mentioned that he had black tarry stools. His vital signs were normal. Physical examination showed some tenderness in the lower abdomen. Rectal examination was not performed. His hemoglobin had dropped to 10.6 g/dL. We performed an esophagogastroduodenoscopy but did not identify a cause for the black stools. We then performed a colonoscopy with intubation into the cecum. We did not observe any lesions causing melena. However, we did note a bluish discoloration through the mucosa scattered with areas of normal-colored colon. The bluish hues of varying shapes and sizes were seen throughout the colon except for the rectosigmoid. When we pressed on the patient’s abdomen or changed his position, the shapes and areas of the configurations shifted (Video 1). Because of the shifting blue hue sign, we suspected an intraperitoneal hemorrhage. We therefore performed a CT scan (Fig. 1), which confirmed our suspicion but did not point to a specific cause of the hemorrhage. Because the patient remained hemodynamically stable, we treated him conservatively and temporarily discontinued rivaroxaban.

This case shows that if a shifting blue hue sign is observed during colonoscopy, an intraperitoneal hemorrhage should be suspected. To the best of our knowledge, only three cases have been described matching our case [1–3]. However, a video of the changing blue hue appearance, which we believe is necessary to document the signs of shifting, has never been published. When a shifting blue hue sign is encountered, we recommend performing a CT scan to confirm an intraperitoneal hemorrhage and treating accordingly.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AD_2AI

Competing interests

None

The authors

Mark P. Lamberts, Helena T. J. I. de Leest
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Rijnstate Hospital, Arnhem, The Netherlands

Corresponding author

Mark P. Lamberts
Rijnstate Hospital, 6815 AD, Arnhem, The Netherlands
Fax: +31 88 0057506
Marklamberts@hotmail.com
References


Bibliography

DOI https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1045-4161
Published online: 2019
Endoscopy © Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

ENDOSCOPY E-VIDEOS
https://eref.thieme.de/e-videos

Endoscopy E-Videos is a free access online section, reporting on interesting cases and new techniques in gastroenterological endoscopy. All papers include a high quality video and all contributions are freely accessible online.

This section has its own submission website at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/e-videos