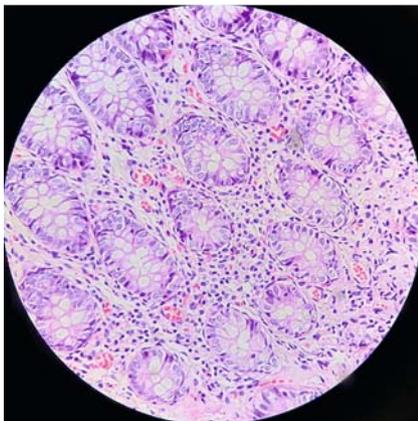


Hookworm diagnosed during colonoscopy and terminal ileum intubation

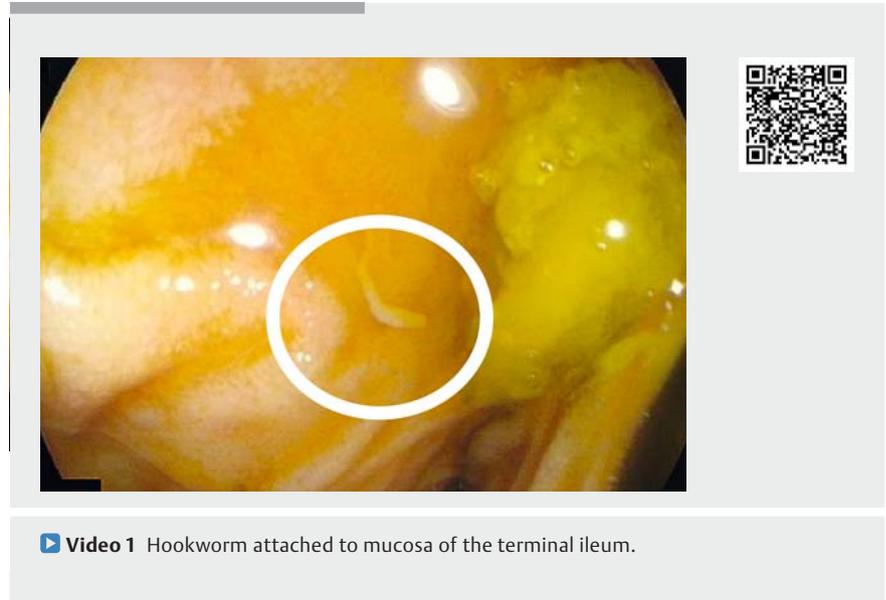


► **Fig. 1** Mild erythema in the mid transverse colon of a 38-year-old patient with bloating and nonspecific abdominal pain.



► **Fig. 2** Eosinophilic infiltration of mucosa in the transverse colon.

A 38-year-old man attended the gastrointestinal outpatient clinic with a 3-month history of bloating, nonspecific abdominal pain, and irregular bowel habit. His laboratory findings included the following: hemoglobin 12.1 g/dL, mean corpuscular volume 81 fL, white blood cell count $5.4 \times 10^9/L$, platelet count $245 \times 10^9/L$, stool exam normal. Based on the recent onset of his complaints and lack of response to symptomatic management, he was referred for colonoscopy. Apart from mild erythema in the transverse colon (► **Fig. 1**), colonoscopy showed no significant findings, but at terminal ileum intubation multiple hookworms were seen



► **Video 1** Hookworm attached to mucosa of the terminal ileum.

attached to the mucosa (► **Video 1**). During withdrawal of the scope, several biopsy samples were obtained from the mid transverse colon. The pathologist reported mild to moderate infiltration of eosinophils in the colonic mucosa (► **Fig. 2**). Treatment with albendazole 400 mg twice daily was started, and 2 weeks later all of the patient's symptoms had disappeared.

Human hookworm infections are mainly caused by two anthroponotic species, *Necator americanus* and *Ancylostoma duodenale*, which are transmitted through contact with contaminated soil [1]. Infected individuals are usually asymptomatic or present with chronic occult bleeding, and in developing countries, especially in the tropics, worm infestation should be considered an important cause of obscure acute gastrointestinal bleeding [2]. Hookworms rarely cause intermittent or chronic diarrhea, and they are known as parasites of the small intestine [3]. Our patient's main complaint was bloating and irregular bowel habit without any history of blood loss. His parasites were found during terminal ileum intubation, and biopsy from normal-looking mucosa revealed mucosal eosinophilia.

The most commonly used drugs for treatment of hookworms are mebendazole and albendazole [4]. Three consecutive daily doses of either drug improve the symptoms [5].

Hookworm infection can present as bloating and nonspecific abdominal pain. This case further emphasizes the importance of terminal ileum intubation and of lowering the threshold for obtaining tissue biopsy during colonoscopy.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Bibliography

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