Colocolonic intussusception identified during endoscopy: an incidental diagnosis

A 42-year-old man with no prior medical history presented with perianal pain and pustular drainage over the course of 1 week. On physical examination, he had a perianal abscess with a draining sinus tract, but no abdominal tenderness to palpation. Laboratory tests showed severe iron deficiency anemia. As part of a workup for this, an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was performed, which was unremarkable. Subsequently, a colonoscopy was performed, which revealed no mucosal inflammation but did show a large focal region of the mid-transverse colon, which spontaneously protruded and retracted (▶Video 1). To evaluate this further, a computed tomography (CT) scan was performed, which revealed a colocolonic intussusception of the transverse colon, without any focal neoplasm (▶Fig. 1). The patient’s perianal abscess improved on antibiotics without the development of any further symptoms and he was discharged home.

Colocolonic intussusception is a rare finding and is usually associated with malignancy in adults, but can also occur spontaneously [1]. About 20% of such cases are transient or asymptomatic in adults and may not necessitate surgical intervention [2]. Abdominal CT can accurately diagnose intussusception in approximately 78% of patients; findings typically include a target-like or sausage-shaped mass with a layering effect [3, 4]. Endoscopy provides invaluable information through direct visualization in order to precisely determine the lead point, as demonstrated by this case.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Steve Hu1, William K. Carson2, Jaya Krishna Chintanaboina2, Devang N. Prajapati3
1 Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California USA
2 California Medical Imaging Radiology Group, Fresno, California, USA
3 Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, UCSF Fresno, Fresno, California, USA

Corresponding author

Steve Hu, MD
Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, 1000 W Carson St, #483, Torrance CA 90502, USA
steve.hu.20@gmail.com
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