A pseudotumoral angiodysplasia

Fig. 1 A computed tomography of the abdomen showing a thickening of the cecal wall.

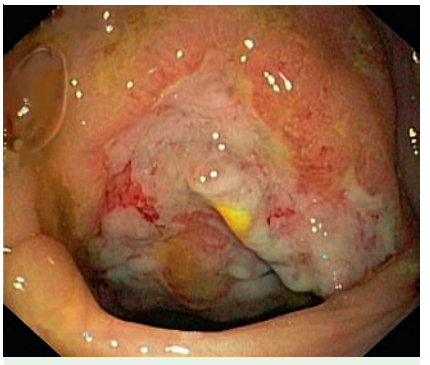

Fig. 2 Endoscopic view of the ulceronecrotic lesion facing the ileocecal valve.

A 76-year-old woman presented with recurrent right lower quadrant pain associated with decreased appetite and weight loss. An abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan without contrast injection (iodine allergy) showed a thickening of the cecal wall with infracentimetric regional lymph nodes (**Fig. 1**).

Colonoscopy depicted a 4 × 2-cm indurated and ulcerated lesion with necrotic features facing the ileocecal valve (**Fig. 2**).

Laboratory tests were normal except for a slightly elevated carcinoembryonic antigen at 9.6 ng/mL (normal value: < 4.5 ng/mL). The pathologic analyses from the biopsies showed necrotic tissue without signs of malignancy. Despite negative histology, given the clinical presentation, and endoscopic and imaging studies, the patient underwent a right hemicolectomy. Macroscopic study of the resected specimen found an ulcerative lesion of size 3.5 cm near the ileocecal valve. Microscopic examination revealed richly vascularized granulation tissue (**Fig. 3**) containing arterialized veins (arrows).

The mucosa and the submucosa exhibited increased numbers of dilated and deformed vessels (**Fig. 4**).

In the absence of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug use and ischemic findings, all these pathologic features are consistent with the diagnosis of ulcerated angiodysplasia of the cecum.

Typical lesions of angiodysplasia are red and small (diameter 4 – 8 mm) [1]. Colonoscopy is the gold standard for detecting symptomatic or asymptomatic lesions. It has a sensitivity of 68 % with a predictive positive value of 90 % [2]. Two cases of angiodysplasia have been described with a radiologic aspect typical of adenocarcinoma [3,4]. In both cases, it presented as a sessile mass, with adjacent ulceration in one case, and surgery was performed. The originality of this case comes first from the clinical presentation – a 76-year-old woman with no presenting blood loss but with abdominal pain, lack of appetite and weight loss – features that are very unusual in the setting of angiodysplasia, and second from its atypical endoscopic presentation mimicking adenocarcinoma.

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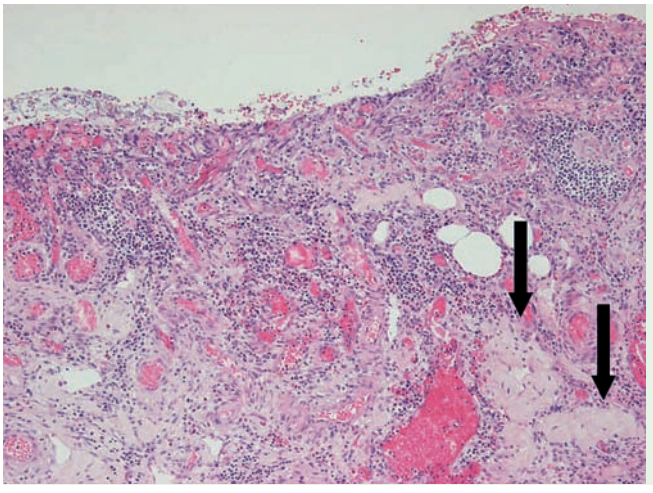

Fig. 3 Microscopic examination of the surgical specimen revealed richly vascularized tissue containing arterialized veins (arrows).

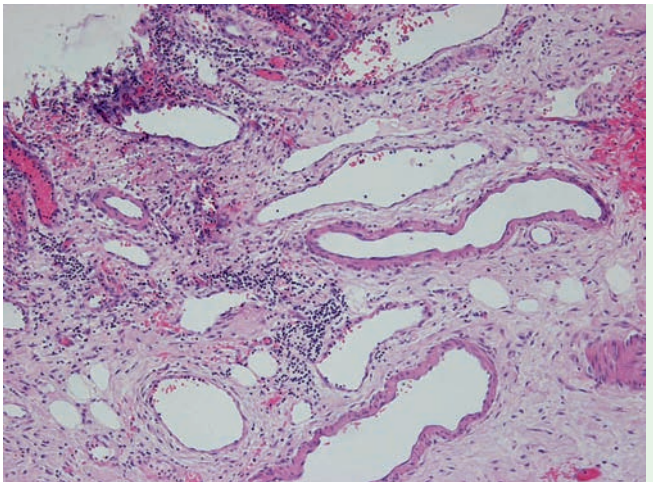

Fig. 4 Microscopic examination of the surgical specimen showing increased numbers of dilated and deformed vessels within the mucosa and the submucosa.

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Bibliography

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