A 44-year-old man was referred to our endoscopy unit because of a family history of colorectal neoplasia. Colonoscopy revealed numerous semi-pedunculated polyps with intact mucosa, measuring 6–12 mm, in the cecum (n = 2), ascending (n = 5), and transverse (n = 2) colon. The two largest polyps, measuring 8 mm and 12 mm, respectively, and occurring in the ascending colon (Fig. 1), were removed by snare polypectomy. Histologic examination of the polyps revealed a submucosal tumor composed of cells with small round nuclei and abundant granular eosinophilic cytoplasm (Fig. 2). Immunohistochemical analysis showed the tumor cells expressed S-100 protein (Fig. 3). The resected polyps were diagnosed as granular cell tumor (GCT). Upper endoscopy, enteroscopy by videocapsule, and abdominal computed tomography scan were unremarkable. The patient entered an annual endoscopic follow-up program. GCT is a rare tumor that may occur in any site of the body [1, 2]. It commonly occurs in the oral cavity, the skin, and the subcutaneous tissue, and is seldom found in the gastrointestinal tract [1, 2]. Gastrointestinal GCT is usually found incidentally during endoscopy as a submucosal tumor and is multiple in 10%–20% of all cases (15 patients described in the literature) [2].

The final diagnosis of GCT depends on pathologic findings: cells with small, uniform nuclei and abundant granular eosinophilic cytoplasm containing acidophilic, periodic acid-Schiff (PAS)-positive, diastase-resistant granules, and expression of S-100 protein or neuron-specific enolase [1, 2]. GCT is usually clinically and histologically benign, with only a few malignant GCT cases reported [1, 2]. Malignant behavior is suggested by large size (> 4 cm), rapid growth, and invasion of the adjacent tissues rather than the histologic features [1, 2]. As gastrointestinal GCTs are considered benign, a conservative approach is suggested by means of endoscopic resection and a strict endoscopic follow-up [2].

Competing interests: None

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AD_2AC

Fig. 1 Narrow-band imaging showed three semi-pedunculated polyps covered by normal mucosa in the ascending colon.

Fig. 2 Histologic examination of the polypectomy specimen showed a submucosal tumor composed of cells with abundant granular cytoplasm. (Hematoxylin and eosin, × 50).

Fig. 3 Immunohistochemical examination for S-100 protein revealed diffuse and strong expression of S-100 protein in tumor cells (× 50).

Soares JB et al. Multiple granular cell tumor of the colon... Endoscopy 2010; 42: E158–E159
J. B. Soares, A. Machado, R. Gonçalves
Gastroenterology Department of Braga Hospital, Braga, Portugal

References

Bibliography
Endoscopy 2010; 42: E158–E159
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
J. B. Soares, MD
Gastroenterology Department of Braga Hospital
Largo Eng. Carlos Amarante
Apartado 2242
4701-965 Braga
Portugal
Fax: +351-253-209092
jbrunosoares@yahoo.com