Inverted Meckel’s diverticulum mimicking an ulcerated pedunculated polyp: detection by single-balloon enteroscopy

A 19-year-old woman was referred to our hospital because of recurrent obscure gastrointestinal bleeding. Abdominal computed tomography revealed one heterogeneous lesion with soft tissue and accumulation of fluid over the distal ileum (Fig. 1).

Physical examinations showed mild tenderness in the right lower quadrant region of abdomen, and laboratory data revealed microcytic anemia. Single-balloon enteroscopy with an anal approach showed one ulcerated pedunculated polyp (about 2 cm in size) with a long stalk located at around the distal ileum (Fig. 2a, b; Video 1).

Polypectomy was performed during enteroscopy (Fig. 2c). One diverticular-like orifice occurred after polypectomy, and one small hole on the tip of this diverticulum was visualized. The woman received emergent laparotomy because of iatrogenic gut perforation. The operation disclosed one diverticulum with iatrogenic perforation about 60 cm from the ileocecal valve (Fig. 3a).

Segmental resection of the ileum was performed. The pathologic examination of specimens from laparotomy and polypectomy confirmed the diagnosis of Meckel’s diverticulum with ectopic pancreatic tissue (Fig. 3b) and gastric tissue (Fig. 3c) with ulceration.

Meckel’s diverticulum is the most common congenital anomaly of the gastrointestinal tract (1%–3% of the population); it is generally asymptomatic. Bleeding is the most common complication, especially in children. However, accurate diagnosis remains difficult. In addition to conventional Technetium-99 m pertechnetate scintigraphy, capsule or balloon-assisted enteroscopy is another diagnostic tool to directly observe the diverticulum [1–3]. Inverted Meckel’s diverticulum is extremely rare, especially that containing both pancreatic and gastric tissues [4,5]. In the present case, the inverted Meckel’s diverticulum with ectopic tissues was clearly viewed by single-balloon enteroscopy, but this lesion mimicked an ulcerated pedunculated polyp. Polypectomy caused subsequent gut perforation. Therefore, inverted Meckel’s diverticulum should be considered and treated carefully in a patient with an elongated pedunculated polyp in the distal ileum.

Competing interests: None

Video 1

Single-balloon enteroscopy with an anal approach revealed one elongated pedunculated polyp with ulceration over the distal ileum.

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Fig. 3  a Operation findings disclosed one diverticulum with perforation about 60 cm from the ileocecal valve. b Pathologic examinations showed ectopic pancreatic tissue within the resected polyp. The arrow indicates the islets of Langerhans. c Pathologic examinations revealed ectopic gastric tissue within the resected polyp. The arrow indicates the gastric glands with parietal cells.

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