

Multiple lymphomatous polyposis due to blastoid variant of mantle cell lymphoma diagnosed by computed tomography colonography and colonoscopy



Fig. 1 Computed tomography colonography showing a lesion in the distal sigmoid colon that was suggestive of a colonic neoplasm.

An 88-year-old man with a past medical history of atrial flutter and congestive heart failure presented with rectal bleeding. Owing to his reluctance to undergo colonoscopy, he instead underwent computed tomography colonography, which showed one lesion in the splenic flexure and one lesion in the distal sigmoid colon, suggestive of colonic neoplasms (● **Fig. 1**). The patient later did undergo a colonoscopy, which showed multiple yellowish, polypoid lesions dispersed throughout the colon (● **Fig. 2a–c**), some with erosions (● **Fig. 2d**). Several biopsies were taken from different segments of the colon. The biopsies all showed an extensive diffuse infiltration of the lamina propria by neoplastic lymphoid cells of intermediate/large size, with irregular nuclei, fine chromatin, and scant cytoplasm (● **Fig. 3a**). The mitotic index was moderate. Immunohistochemistry showed positivity for CD45, CD20, CD5, and cyclin D1, consistent with mantle cell lymphoma, blastoid variant (● **Fig. 3b**). A computed tomography scan showed multiple enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes and splenomegaly. As the patient did not have any obstructive symptoms, he was referred for treatment with chemotherapy.

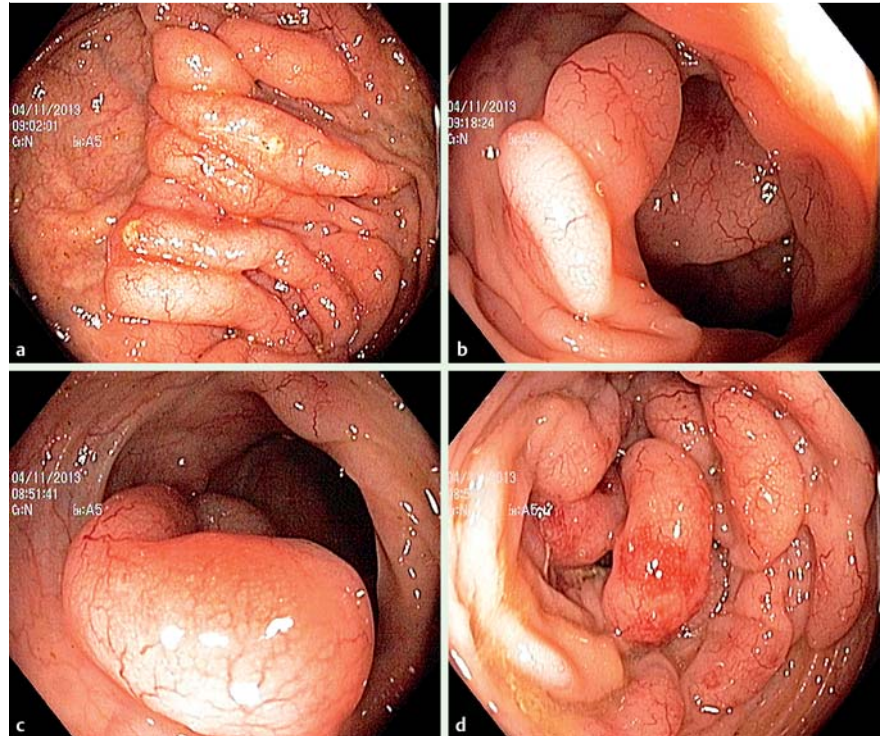


Fig. 2 Conventional colonoscopy images showing: **a** multiple yellowish, polypoid lesions dispersed throughout the colon; **b** the normal mucosa covering the polypoid lesions; **c** a central depression that is apparent in some of the polypoid lesions; **d** erosions that were present on some of the lesions in the distal colon.

Multiple lymphomatous polyposis (MLP) is an extremely rare form of primary gastrointestinal lymphoma that is characterized by multiple polyps formed by neoplastic lymphoid cells [1]. Most cases of MLP are found in mantle cell lymphoma. The blastoid variant of mantle cell lymphoma is so-called because of its blastoid cytology with large round-to-oval nuclei and prominent nucleoli, in contrast to the much more common classic variant of mantle cell lymphoma, which has nuclei of small-to-medium size with irregular contours [2,3]. Most of the cases of MLP previously reported in the literature have been in classic mantle cell lymphoma with typical cytology and low proliferation index.

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Competing interests: None

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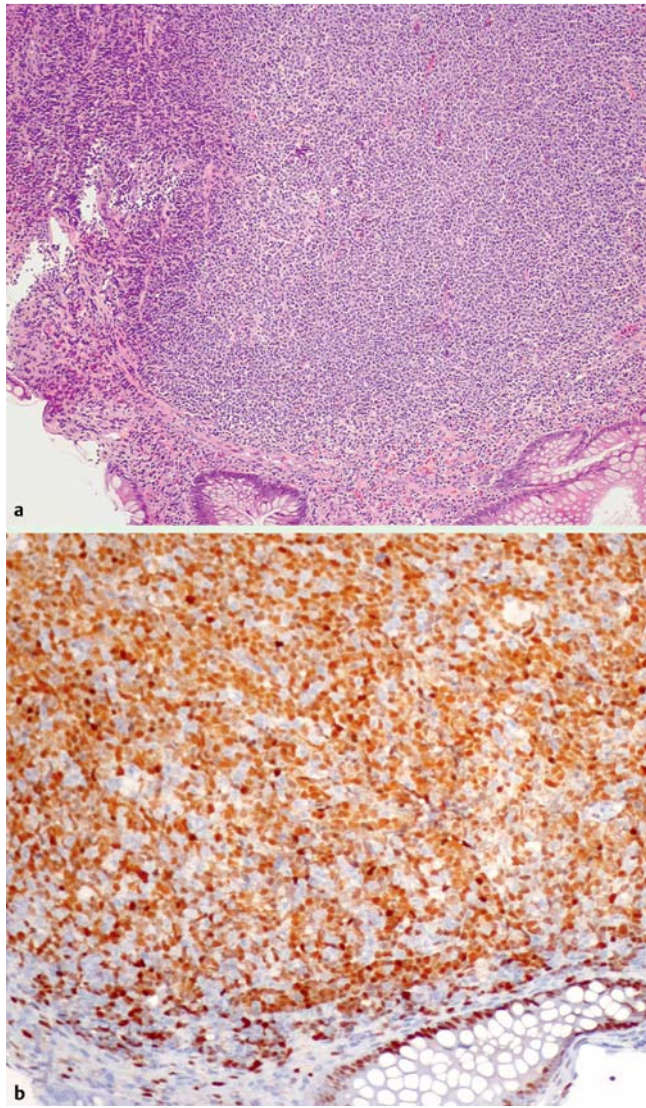


Fig. 3 Histology of the colonic biopsies showing: **a** extensive diffuse infiltration of the lamina propria by neoplastic lymphoid cells of intermediate/large size, with irregular nuclei, fine chromatin and scant cytoplasm (hematoxylin and eosin [H&E] stain, original magnification $\times 100$); **b** positive immunostaining of lymphoid cells with cyclin D1, consistent with mantle cell lymphoma (original magnification $\times 200$).

Bibliography

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