Colonoscopy through appendectomy in a colonic stenosis

Colonoscopy is the standard method used for exploring the colon to remove polyps. However, a percentage of the colonoscopic procedures performed cannot be completed for various reasons, such as the presence of a stenosis [1, 2]. Computed tomographic colonography has proved to be very useful in cases in which a colonoscopy cannot be completed, but a drawback is that therapy is not possible [3].

A 58-year-old man was referred to our hospital because of acute diarrhea and a positive fecal occult blood (FOB) test result. He had an infantile pelvic fibrosarcoma, treated with surgery and radiotherapy, and a posteriorly placed neurostimulator.

A colonoscopy was performed, during which two polyps (tubulovillous adenomas) were removed, but the colonoscope could not pass the sigmoid colon because...
of the presence of stenosis and diverticula. Computed tomographic colonography showed stenosis of the colon and two additional polyps, one in the ileocecal valve and the other in the splenic flexure. These polyps were 7 and 5 mm in size, respectively (Fig. 1).

The patient underwent two more colonoscopic procedures in which a thinner endoscope was used, but the stenosis still could not be passed. Therefore, he was referred to surgery and was advised that a colonoscopy could be carried out through an appendectomy, so as to avoid colonic segmental resection.

An appendectomy was performed, through which the colonoscope was introduced (Fig. 2) and reached the sigmoid colon. The existing polyps were removed: those previously seen on computed tomographic colonography (tubular adenomas) and one in the sigmoid colon (tubulovillous adenoma) (Fig. 3, Video 1).

After a normal, uncomplicated appendectomy (Fig. 5), the patient was finally discharged.

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Fernando Sábado1, Jesús Nomdedeu2, Pablo Aragó2, Daniel Ahicart2, Beatriz Castelló2, Antonio Peris1

1 Department of Gastroenterology, Consorcio Hospitalario Provincial de Castellón, Castellón de la Plana, Spain
2 Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Consorcio Hospitalario Provincial de Castellón, Castellón de la Plana, Spain
3 Department of Radiology, Consorcio Hospitalario Provincial de Castellón, Castellón de la Plana, Spain
4 Department of Gastroenterology, University CEU Cardenal Herrera, Castellón de la Plana, Spain

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Corresponding author
Fernando Sábado, MD
Department of Gastroenterology
Consorcio Hospitalario Provincial de Castellón
Av Doctor Clara 19
Castellón de la Plana 12002
Spain
Fax: +34-964-354301
fersabado@hotmail.com