

A 59-year-old man underwent a surveillance colonoscopy after endoscopic resection of multiple polyps. Colonoscopy showed a reddish and swollen ileocecal valve. Although the colonoscopy could not be introduced into the terminal ileum, the patient was asymptomatic. The surface of the swollen ileocecal valve was reddish, rather irregularly shaped, and nodular-like, mimicking a lump consisting of multiple swollen lymphoid follicles (Figure 1a). Small ulcers were also partially evident on the surface, and the mass was demonstrated to be elastic-hard with biopsy forceps (Figure 1b). Multiple endoscopic biopsy samples were taken from different areas, including the small ulcers, for histological evaluation, but no definite diagnosis could be obtained. As a diagnosis could not be established by repeated biopsies, polypectomy was performed to remove a larger specimen for histological evaluation. The resected specimen was sliced into two pieces, and macroscopic observation revealed that it consisted of round, whitish nodules resembling lymph nodes (Figure 2a,b). Histologically, the features suggested malignant lymphoma. The patient underwent surgical resection, and the final diagnosis was diffuse large B-cell-type malignant lymphoma.

The ileocecal area and ileum are the regions most frequently affected by primary small- and large-intestinal non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and most of such cases, like the present one, are diffuse large B-cell lymphoma [1]. According to the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) guidelines, during colonoscopy, every effort should be made to obtain a tissue diagnosis when encountering polyps, mass lesions, or colonic strictures [2]. Unfortunately, in the present case, a correct diagnosis could not be established from multiple biopsy samples. As definitive diagnosis could only be made from large tissue fragments taken from representative portions of the lesion, polypectomy was performed and a diagnosis was established successfully. In other cases,

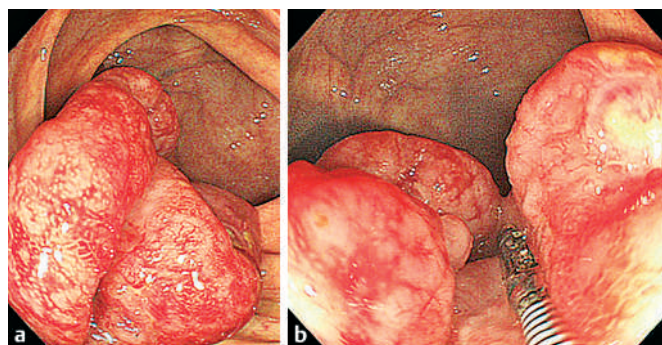


Figure 1 a Colonoscopy showed a reddish and swollen ileocecal valve. b The surface of the swollen ileocecal valve was shaped rather irregularly with small ulcers in part, and with a nodular-like mass consisting of multiple swollen lymphoid follicles.

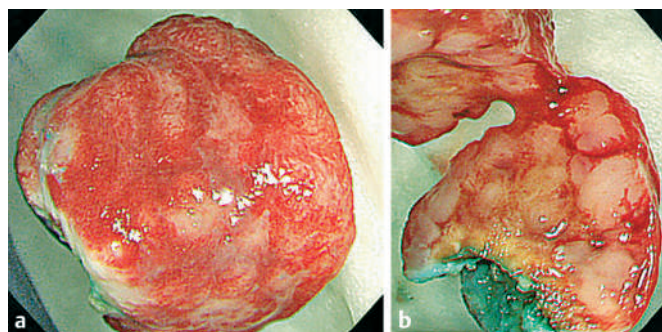


Figure 2 a Endoscopic view of the specimen resected by polypectomy. b The resected specimen was sliced into two pieces and this revealed that the mass consisted of round, whitish nodules resembling lymph nodes.

endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration biopsy may provide an accurate diagnosis, particularly in patients for whom previous endoscopic forceps biopsy has been unsuccessful [3]. However, this procedure is not always available, as special equipment and skill are needed.

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