Lobulated colonic lipoma mimicking carcinoma with intermittent intussusception

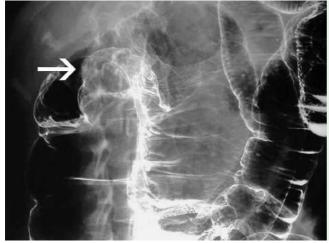


Figure 1 Double contrast colon series showed an irregular lobulated mass measuring 5 cm in diameter, located in the hepatic flexure.

Lipomas are the most common nonepithelial tumors of the colon, and rank third in frequency among benign colonic tumors after hyperplastic and adenomatous polyps [1]. Symptomatic colonic lipomas are uncommon, accounting for 6% in clinical series at the Mayo Clinic [2]. Intussuscepted colonic lipomas are rare and often confused with malignant tumors, so that most of them are diagnosed after intervention [3]. We report on a lobulated colonic lipoma with unusual presentations that mimicked carcinoma.

A 47-year-old woman presented with intermittent, colicky abdominal pain. Physical examination showed no specific finding except for pale conjunctiva. Laboratory investigation revealed iron-deficiency anemia. The fecal occult blood test was positive. Double contrast colon series showed an irregular lobulated mass, measuring 5 cm in diameter and located in the hepatic flexure (> Figure 1). Colonoscopy revealed a 5 cm diameter polypoid mass with an irregular lobulated margin, tan-pink ulcerated surface, and easy contact bleeding in the ascending colon near the hepatic flexure (> Figure 2). Abdominal computed tomography (CT) showed an intussuscepted lesion located in the hepatic flexure. An ill-defined fat-containing soft-tissue mass was measured at 5 cm in diameter and acted as a leading point of intussusception (> Figure 3). Because of suspicion of malignant tumor, the patient underwent laparotomy with right hemicolectomy. The gross appearance of the lesion was that of a polypoid hard mass measuring

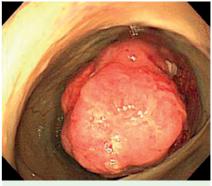


Figure 2 Colonoscopy revealed a polypoid mass with an irregular lobulated margin, and tan-pink ulcerated necrotic surface that mimicked a malignant tumor.

5×4×4 cm, with an ulcerated necrotic surface and located at the distal ascending colon (**•** Figure 4). The histologic findings revealed a lipoma composed of mature adipose tissue. The surface of the mass was superficially ulcerated with inflammation and fibrosis (**•** Figure 5). The patient was discharged on the seventh day after the operation, following an uneventful recovery.

Large colonic lipomas (> 2 cm) can present as abdominal pain from obstruction



Figure 3 Abdominal computed tomography showed an ill-defined fat-containing soft-tissue mass, which acted as a leading point of intussusception (**a**, arrow). The wall of the colon near the mass was thickened with rings of intussusception (**b**, arrow). There was no lymphadenopathy.

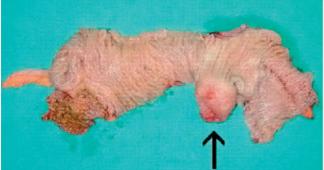
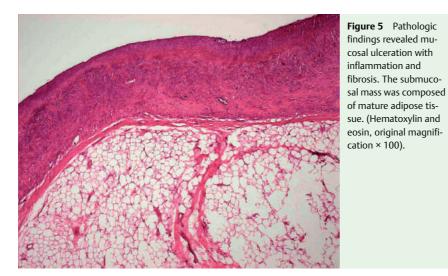


Figure 4 Resected specimen of the colon showed a polypoid hard mass measuring $5 \times 4 \times 4$ cm, with an ulcerated necrotic surface, located at the distal ascending colon.



or intussusception, and bleeding or chronic anemia could occur when mucosa overlying the lipoma is ulcerated [4]. Ulcerative and lobulated appearance may be due to fibrosis and healing of traumatic mucosa resulting from chronic and occasional intussusception [5]. In this case, abdominal CT is sensitive for colonic lipomas with intussusception.

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