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Case Report

Giant ileocolic intussusception in an adult induced by a double ileal lipoma: a case report with pathologic correlation

Pantelis Kraniotis MD^{*}, Georgios Pastromas MD, Irene Tsota MD, Maria Patsoura MD, Theodore Petsas

Department of Radiology, University Hospital of Patras, Leoforos Ippokratous, 26500 Rion, Patras, Greece

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ABSTRACT

Intussusception in adults is rare, accounting for less than 5% of all cases. Unlike the childhood variant, adult intussusception is often associated with a small bowel lesion acting as the “lead point.” We herein report an uncommon case of giant intussusception secondary to 2 separate lipomatous lesions located in the ileum, in an adult admitted to our hospital for acute severe abdominal pain.

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Case report

A 30-year-old man with no notable medical history presented with a 12-hour intense abdominal pain associated with nausea and vomiting. The patient also complained for intermittent abdominal pain and constipation the last 3 days. On physical examination, his abdomen was moderately distended with localized tenderness in the right iliac fossa and retraction of the right lower quadrant. Laboratory findings revealed raised white blood cell count (15,000).

Subsequently, a computed tomography (CT) was performed. Oral contrast was administered and intravenous contrast was given using an automated pump. Data were acquired in 1.25-mm helical slices. On axial scans, a target-shaped configuration, thought to represent a small bowel loop containing 2 separate round fat density lesions, consistent with lipomas, was identified at the level of the right flank and mid abdomen (Fig. 1). The next slice, caudally, revealed a

bilobed doughnut-shaped configuration with invaginating mesenteric fat on both sides and mesenteric vessels in the proximal one, resembling the intussusceptum bowel segment (Fig. 2). Multiplanar reconstruction was performed. By applying coronal reconstruction, we appreciated the full course of the intussusception which was measured approximately 19 cm (Figs. 3 and 4). A sagittal reconstruction displayed the “pseudokidney” appearance with mesenteric vessels coursing within the central invaginated low-density mesenteric fat (Fig. 5).

The patient underwent an urgent exploratory laparotomy which revealed an ileocolic intussusception. Conversion to open surgery revealed double ileal lipoma, and a right hemicolectomy was performed. Macroscopic assessment of the resected specimen exposed the invagination of the distal ileum through the ileocecal valve into the cecum (Fig. 6). Ischemic changes were noted on the gross specimen (Fig. 7). Histopathologic examination reported 2 ileal lipomas 3 and 2

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^{*} Corresponding author.

E-mail address: pantelis.kraniotis@gmail.com (P. Kraniotis).
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Fig. 1 – Proximal axial CT slice demonstrating 2 intraluminal fat-density lesions (asterisks) in a doughnut-shaped bowel loop.

cm, respectively, located submucosally, whereas the smaller one appeared to be engulfed in distorted mucosa (Figs. 8 and 9). The patient had a rapid recovery, with complete resolution of his symptoms.

Discussion

Adult intussusception, as mentioned previously, is a rather rare condition responsible for only 5% of all intussusceptions and 1% of all small bowel obstructions [1]. It is described as the spontaneous telescoping of a proximal segment of bowel (intussusceptum) into the lumen of the adjacent distal segment (intussuscepiens) [2]. In contrast to children, most adult intussusceptions have an organic cause [3,4]. It is usually stimulated by an intraluminal bowel tumor, commonly located near the ileocecal valve that alters normal bowel peristalsis and acts as the lead point of intussusceptum [5].



Fig. 2 – Distal axial CT slice. The linear densities representing the mesentery vessels differentiate the intussusceptum mesentery fat (short arrow) from the ileal lipoma (long arrow).



Fig. 3 – Coronal CT reconstruction with maximum intensity projection algorithm demonstrates a 19-cm-long sausage-shaped configuration (black circle).

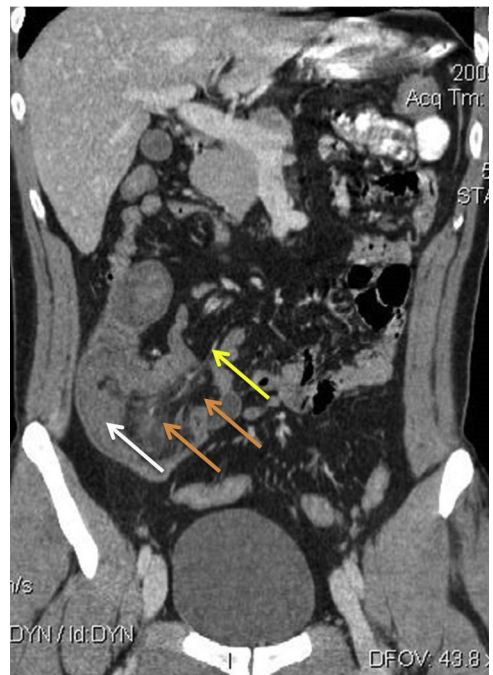


Fig. 4 – Coronal CT reconstruction. Mesenteric vessels (yellow arrow) and mesenteric fat (orange arrows) are recognized within the sausage-shaped bowel. Notice the intussusceptum small bowel loop (white arrow)

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