

A Case of Invasive Gastrointestinal Mold Infection

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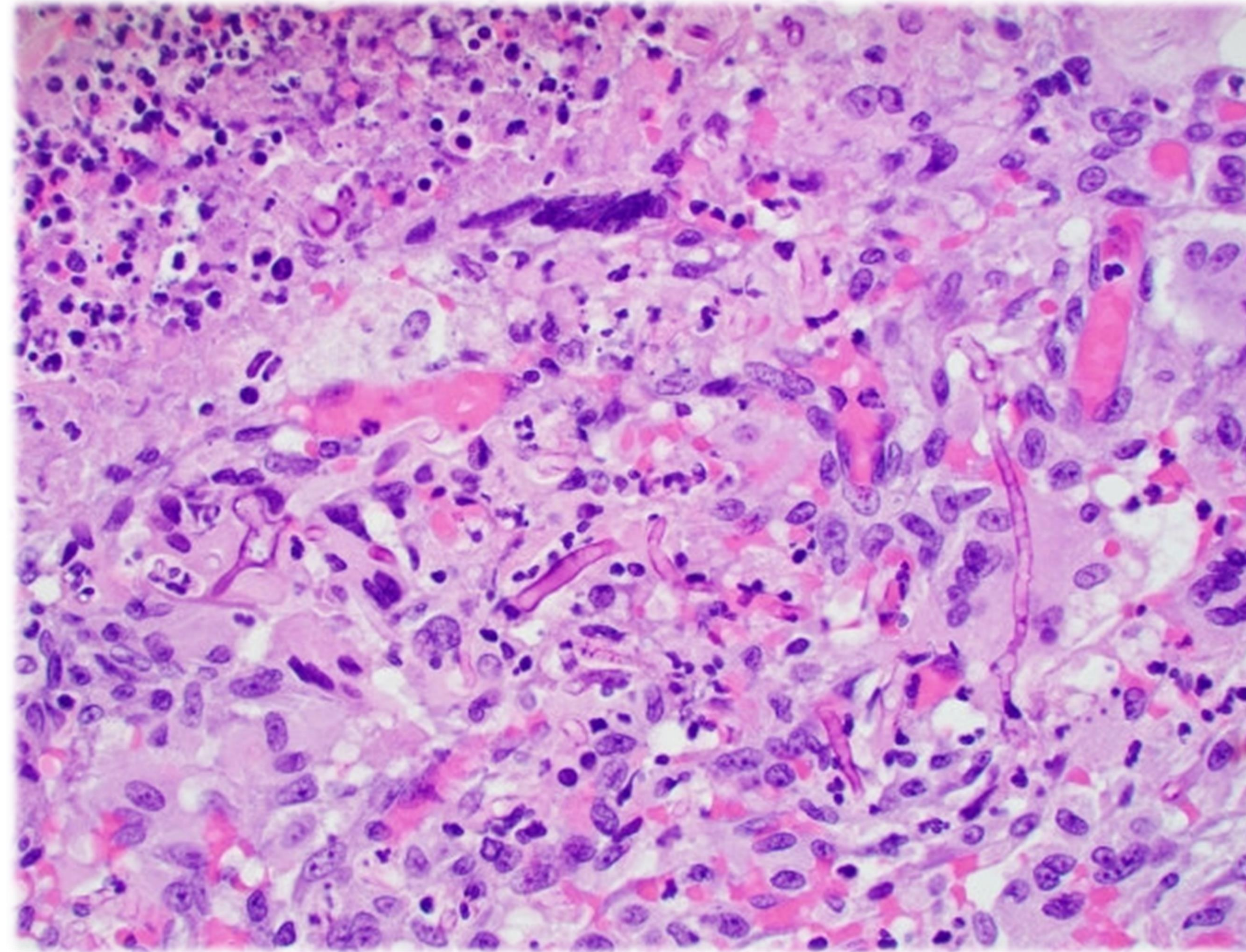
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INTRODUCTION

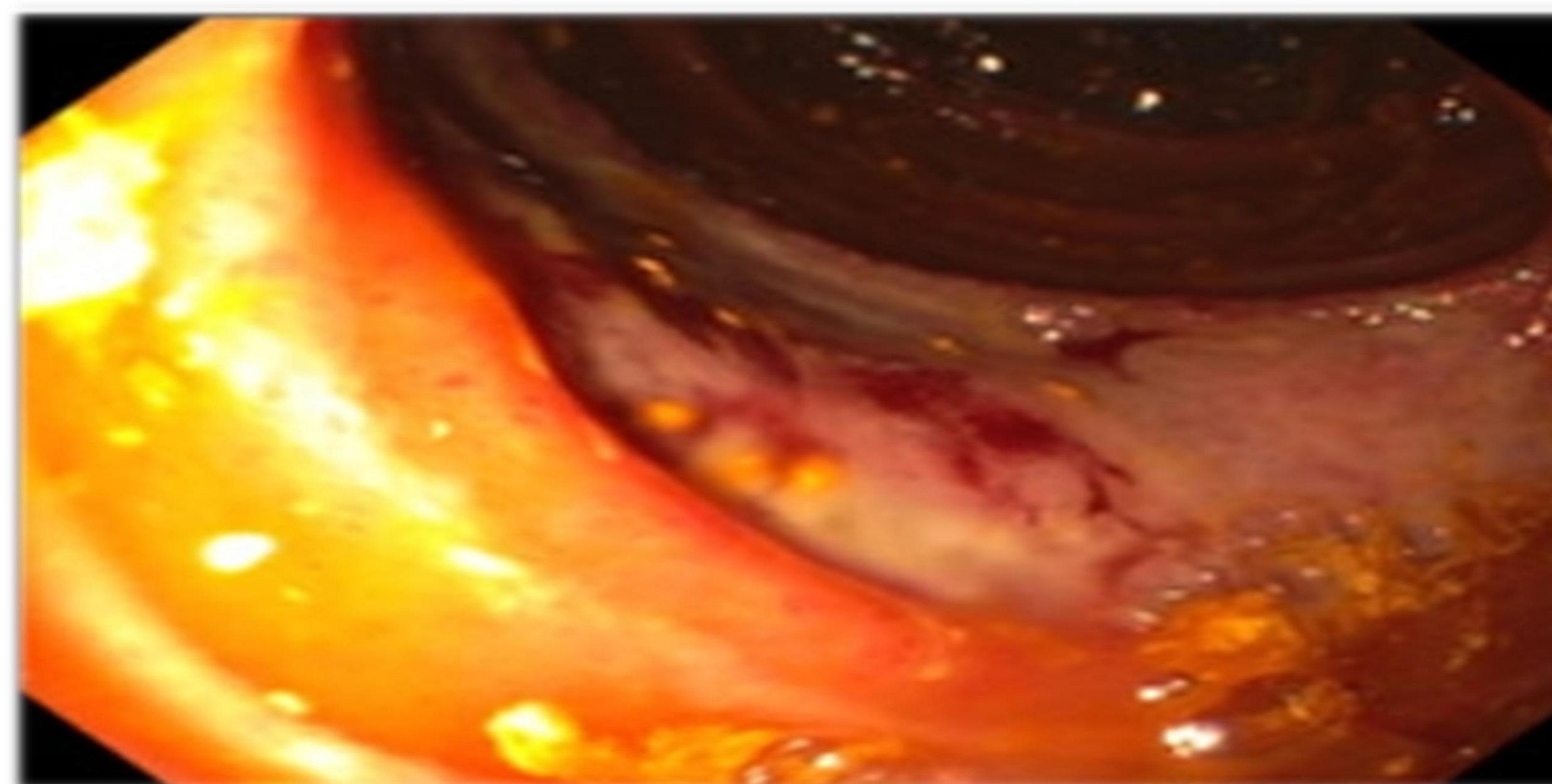
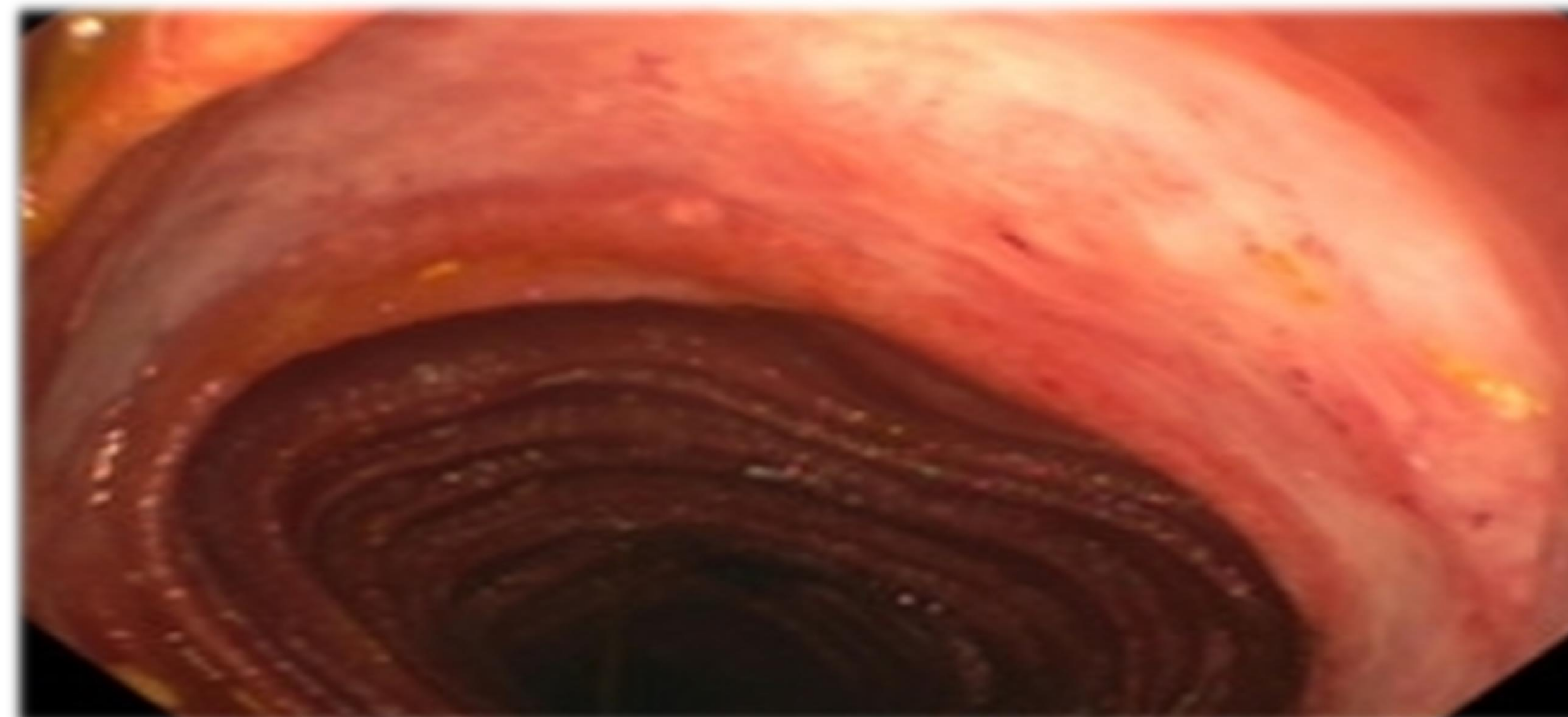
- Invasive mold infections can be devastating and are mostly seen in patients with hematologic malignancies, profound neutropenia, solid organ or hematopoietic cell transplantation, and poorly controlled diabetes mellitus.
- Mucormycosis is caused by a group of ubiquitous molds called Mucormycetes and characterized by **tissue infarction and necrosis** that results from **invasion of the vasculature by hyphae**.
- We present a rare case of a patient with invasive gastrointestinal mold infection.

CASE PRESENTATION

- 47 year-old male with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP) was admitted for autologous stem cell transplantation (ASCT).
- Initial hospitalization was complicated by **neutropenic fever** and **C. difficile enteritis**.
- Repeat admission for nausea/vomiting. Push enteroscopy revealed **two circumferential deep small bowel ulcerations** and a **jejunal stricture**. Ulcer biopsies were positive for **Cytomegalovirus**.
- Third admission again for intractable nausea/vomiting due to acute small bowel obstruction. Ex-lap revealed **five strictures** in the distal small bowel and **affected portion of jejunum was resected**.
- Histopathology showed **necrotizing granulomatous inflammation with aseptated fungal hyphae** concerning for **Mucormycosis**.



Mucosal ulceration with underlying necrotizing granulomatous inflammation with non-septated fungal hyphae present



Circumferential ulcerations seen in jejunum on push enteroscopy.

DISCUSSION

- The most common presentation of Mucormycosis is a rhino-orbital-cerebral infection. **Gastrointestinal infection is rare** and estimated to occur in around **7% of all Mucormycosis cases** and carries **mortality as high as 85%**.
- Our patient had a history of **refractory CIDP**. He underwent **chemotherapy for ASCT** that was complicated by development of **C. difficile** and **CMV** gastrointestinal infections and **small bowel obstruction** necessitating exploratory laparoscopy for **surgical resection**.
- Although invasive GI Mucormycosis is rare, in **severely immunocompromised patients** with unexplained gastrointestinal symptoms and **multiple risk factors as presented in our patient**, this infectious organism should be considered in the differential.