# A Rare Case of Primary Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma of the Colon

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## Background

- In the United States and United Kingdom, the incidence of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is approximately 7 cases per 100,000 people annually
- Primary colorectal lymphomas are uncommon and account for 0.3% of all large intestinal malignancies, majority are B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma with DLBCL representing the most common subtype

## **Case Presentation**

- An 86-year-old female with a past medical history of diverticulosis, GERD, chronic atrial fibrillation on warfarin, hypertension, hyperlipidemia presented with complaints of lower abdominal cramping, bloating, changes in bowel habit, and intermittent rectal bleeding
- Social History: No tobacco, alcohol or illicit drug use
- Surgical History: Hysterectomy
- Vitals Signs: BP 151/83 mmHg, T98.6 F, HR 91 bpm, RR 99%
- Physical exam significant for mild lower abdominal tenderness, otherwise remainder of exam were unremarkable

Laboratory Results	
WBC	10.56 x 10 <sup>3</sup> cells/uL
Hemoglobin	11.0 x10 <sup>3</sup> cells/uL
Platelets	97
Potassium	2.8 mmol/L

#### Colonoscopy

Stricture of benign intrinsic appearance in the sigmoid colon measuring 10 cm in diameter and 3 cm in length

#### Histology

Mild to moderate colitis with no specific findings on trichrome stain

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## Diagnostic Results

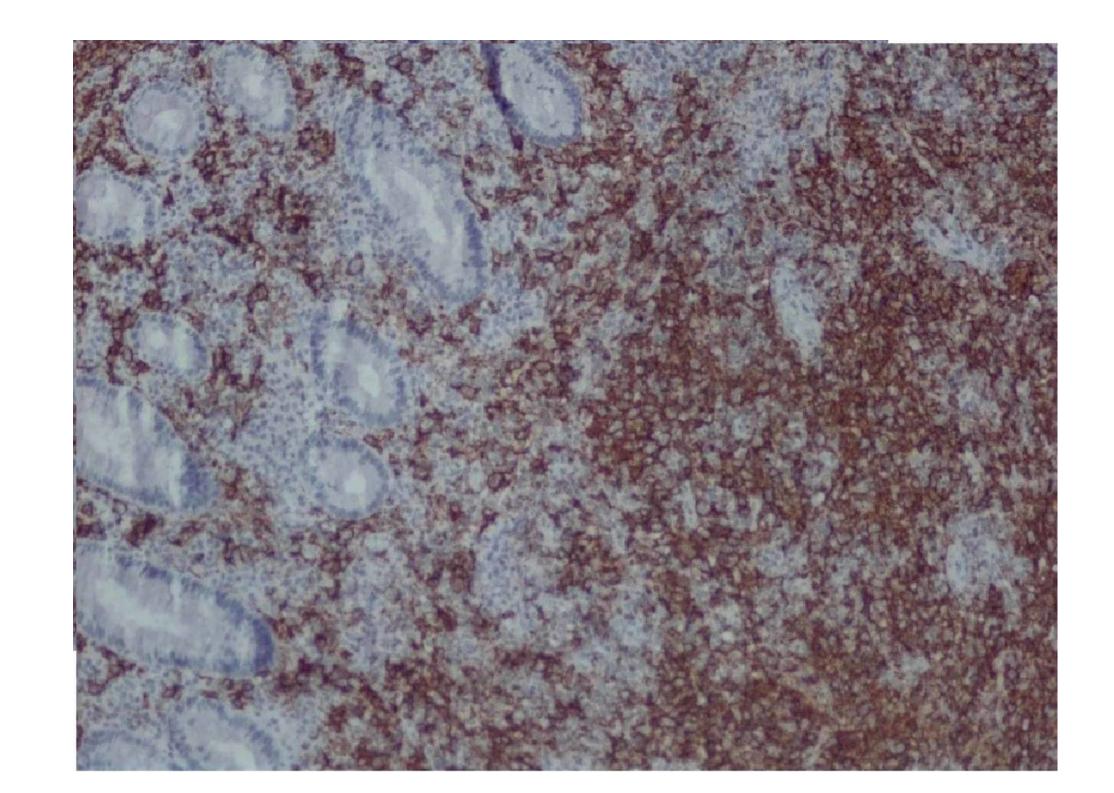
- The patient was taken for laparoscopic low anterior resection of a sigmoid colonic mass and was converted to an open approach intraoperatively due to the size of the mass and decreased visualization in the pelvis
- The sigmoid colon was further mobilized and the uninvolved portions of the proximal rectum and descending colon were transected
- The sigmoid colon was removed and sent to pathology for further analysis and the proximal rectum and descending colon were anastomosed with no air leaks identified
- Surgical pathology report of the sigmoid colon specimen later showed malignant lymphoma with transmural invasion and involvement of numerous adjacent peri-colonic nodes, but the proximal and distal resection margins were negative for tumor



**CT Abdomen Pelvis** with contrast Sigmoid colonic diverticulosis

Chilaiditi Syndrome with interposition of colon between liver and right hemidiaphragm

## Diagnosis: Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma



**Tumor Stain** Positive: BCL-2, BCL-6, CD10, CD20 Negative: CD3 and BCL-1

Highly proliferative activity for KI-67

## Discussion

- As in the case of our patient, initial presentation had vague gastrointestinal abnormalities
- Imaging study with CT of the abdomen and pelvis and colonoscopy with biopsy were nonspecific
- Diagnostic modalities usually involve imaging to evaluate for extension of disease, direct visualization with colonoscopy, and sampling for tissue analysis
- In the case of DLBCL, the etiology is unknown however certain risk factors and predisposing conditions have been associated such as immunodeficiency and inflammatory bowel disease

#### Conclusion

- Primary colonic lymphomas are rather uncommon
- History and presenting symptoms are usually nonspecific which often results in delay of diagnosis
- Recognizing associated factors can help include disease onto the differential. Further advancement in immunohistochemistry and tumor analysis can allow for more timely diagnosis of colonic lymphomas

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