

# Granular Cell Tumor of the Cecum: An Uncommon Tumor in an Unusual Location

Roderick S. Brown DO<sup>1</sup>, William P. Sonnier MD<sup>1</sup>

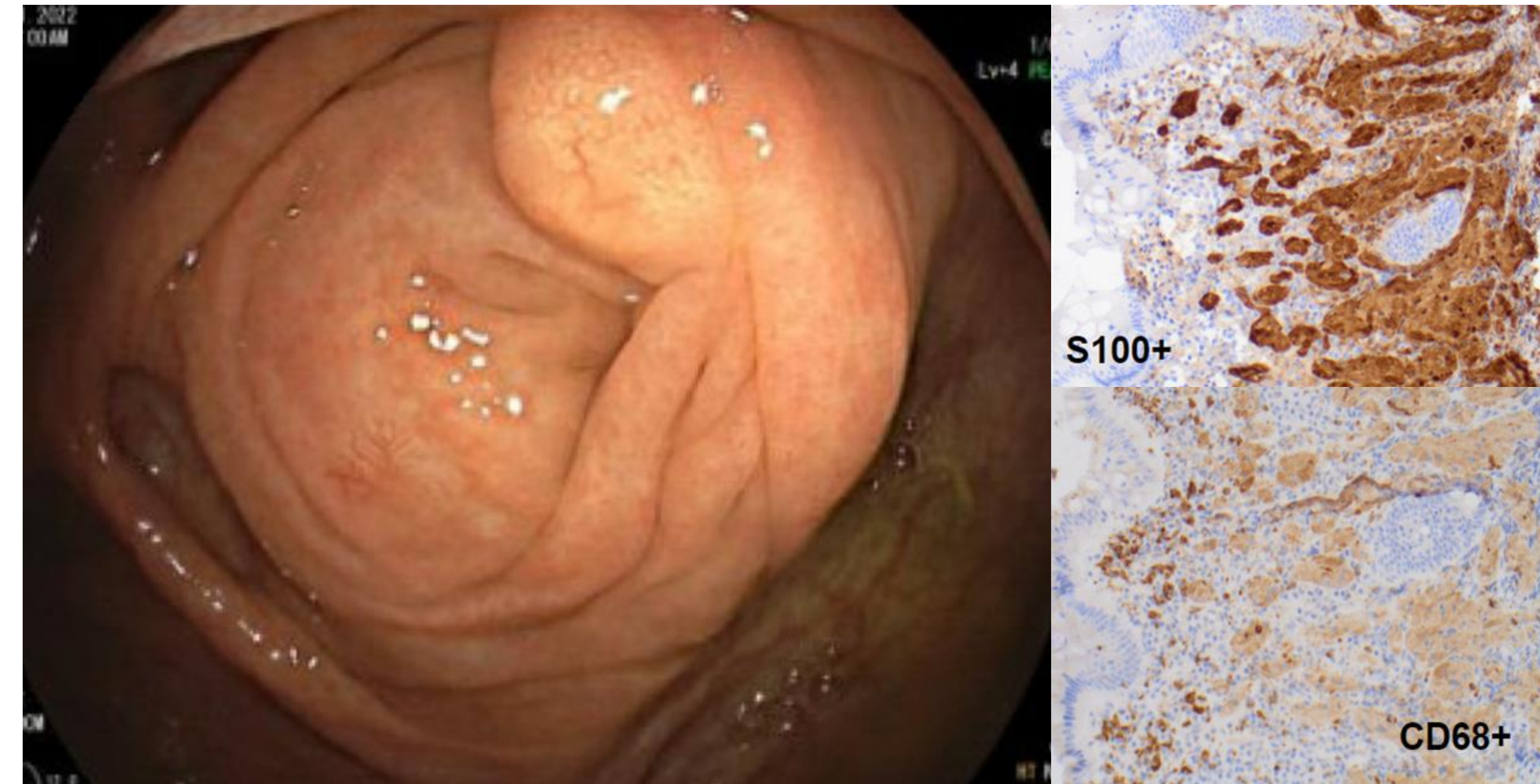
University of South Alabama College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

Granular cell tumors are rare soft tissue neoplasms derived from Schwann cells and are commonly found in the skin, oral cavity, and gastrointestinal tract. While most follow a benign course, malignant cases have been reported in 1-2% of cases. In the gastrointestinal tract, the majority of cases involve the esophagus but rarely these tumors will involve the colon. We present a case of a granular cell tumor of the cecum found incidentally in a middle-aged woman during a screening colonoscopy.

## Case Presentation

A 52-year-old female presented for colon cancer screening. She used tobacco but had no past medical history. She denied a family history of colon cancer or colon polyps. Physical examination was normal. Colonoscopy revealed a 1 cm subepithelial, polypoid lesion in the cecum in close proximity to the appendiceal orifice. Biopsies revealed a proliferation of plump cells with bland nuclei and granular, eosinophilic cytoplasm in the lamina propria and submucosa. The cells were S100 and CD68 positive, consistent with a granular cell tumor. Due to subepithelial involvement she underwent laparoscopic appendectomy with en bloc wedge resection of cecum with negative margins.



**Figure 1:** Protruding subepithelial granular cell tumor of the cecum. Immunohistochemistry staining positive for S100 and CD68.

## Discussion

Gastrointestinal involvement of granular cell tumors account for 5-11% of all cases reported. In the gastrointestinal tract, the esophagus is the most frequently encountered location followed by the duodenum, anus, stomach, and colon. Less than 130 cases of colonic involvement have been reported. Most lesions are found incidentally on screening colonoscopy. While most tend to follow a benign course, malignant lesions have been reported. Management typically involves surgical resection due to subepithelial involvement or endoscopic submucosal dissection. This case highlights the importance of recognizing colonic involvement of a tumor that is typically considered to be a tumor of the esophagus. Endoscopists should consider granular cell colonic tumors when encountering subepithelial lesions of the colon.

## References

- Chen Y, Chen Y, Chen X, et al. Colonic granular cell tumor: Report of 11 cases and management with review of the literature. *Oncol Lett.* 2018 Aug;16(2):1419-1424.
- Rajagopal MD, Gochhait D, Shanmugan D, et al. Granular Cell Tumor of Cecum: A Common Tumor in a Rare Site with Diagnostic Challenge. *Rare Tumors.* 2017;9(2):502-521.
- Sohn DK, Choi HS, Chang YS, et al. Granular cell tumor of colon: report of a case and review of literature. *World J Gastroenterol.* 2004 Aug 15; 10(16): 2452-2454.