

Introduction

Mucosal melanoma is rare and accounts for approximately 1% of all melanomas. Mucosal melanomas occur primarily in the head and neck (55%), anorectal (24%), and vulvovaginal regions (18%). Anorectal mucosal melanoma accounts for 0.05% of all colorectal malignancies and 1% of all anal canal cancers.

Case presentation

A 61-year-old male patient presented to the hospital with **anal pain** for one month with subsequent **rectal bleeding**. His digital rectal exam was remarkable for a palpable anorectal mass. Colonoscopy revealed a **large non-obstructing cauliflower mass** occupying the anorectum with overlying friable mucosa (Figure 1A,B). Histopathology showed undifferentiated spindle and round cell malignancy consistent with **nodular type of malignant melanoma**. Immunohistochemical staining revealed strong positivity for S100, Melan A, and HMB45 markers confirming the diagnosis of malignant melanoma. MRI of the abdomen and pelvis redemonstrated a large anorectal endoluminal mass lesion with multiple enlarged presacral and bilateral internal iliac lymph nodes. PET-CT showed a fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG)-avid anorectal wall thickening and internal iliac lymph nodes. After a multidisciplinary team discussion, the patient underwent **abdominoperineal resection with bilateral iliac lymph nodes dissection**.

Learning points

- Mucosal melanoma occurs in the anorectum due to abundance of the melanocytes in the mucosa of the anal canal.
- Anorectal melanoma usually presents with nonspecific complaints such as anal pain or rectal bleeding that can be misdiagnosed as hemorrhoids or rectal polyps and lead to delayed diagnosis.
- Surgical resection is the mainstay of treatment, while the benefit of radiotherapy and chemotherapy remains uncertain.
- This tumor is an aggressive tumor that carries a poor prognosis; and even with surgical intervention, the reported 5-year overall survival rate is 6%–15%.

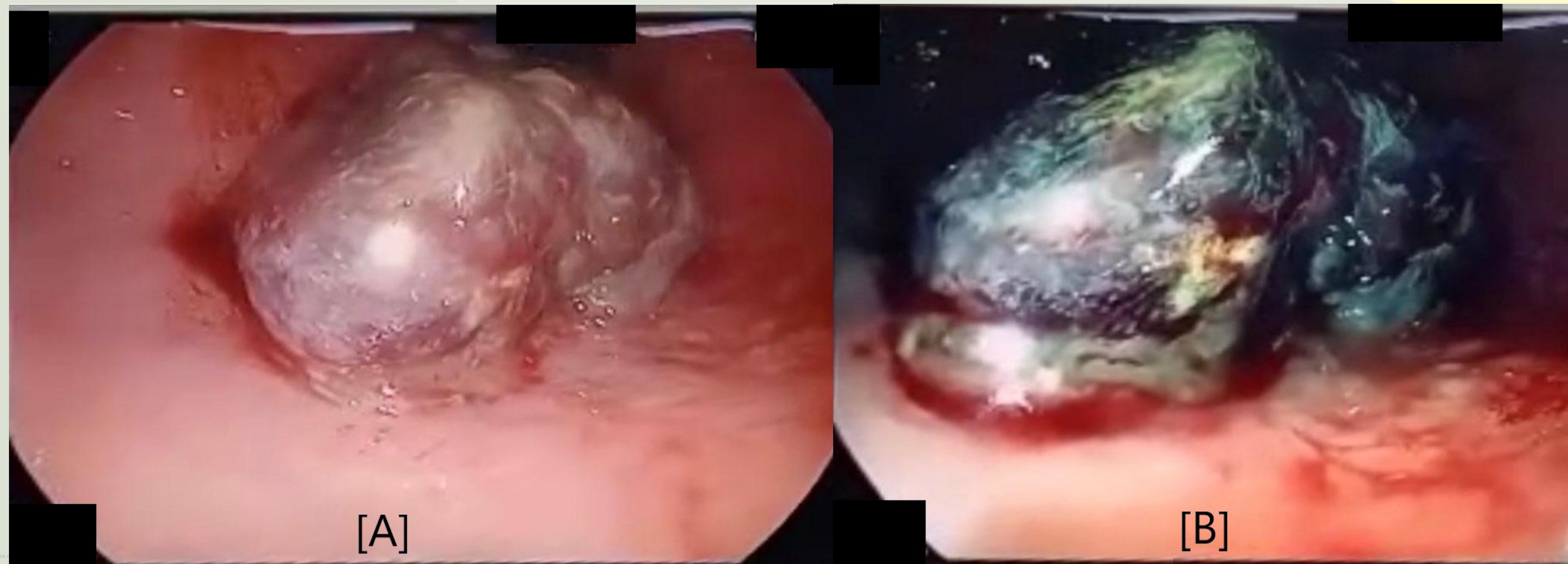


Figure 1 Endoscopic image of the anorectal mass lesion on retroflexion (A) and with the i-Scan (B).

Contact

Khaled Elfert, MD, MRCP
 SBH Health System, New York, NY, USA
 Email: Kh.elfert90@gmail.com