

Mount Sinai The Great Imitator Hiding in Plain Sight

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Introduction

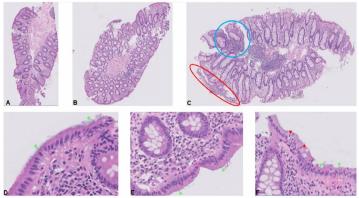
- Lower gastrointestinal syphilis is a rare manifestation of early syphilis transmitted through anal contact usually occuring in men and transwomen who have sex with men.
- It can present with hematochezia, mucous discharge, tenesmus, and can mimic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).
- We present a case of intestinal syphilis in an HIV patient presenting with fevers and bloody diarrhea found to have intestinal spirochetosis.

Case Description

- A 32-year-old male with a history of untreated HIV, untreated hepatitis C, and IV drug use presented with a one-month history of worsening sharp and diffuse abdominal pain, subjective fevers, and blood-tinged mucoid bowel movements.
- Social history is significant for being a sex worker and having sex with males.
- On physical exam he was cachectic appearing with a diffusely tender abdomen. Rectal exam revealed palpable nodules and anal condylomas.

Patient Course

- He was treated with HAART and doxycycline for a presumed lymphogranuloma venereum infection.
- Computed Tomography of the abdomen pelvis showed an irregular and thick-walled rectum with perirectal soft-tissue stranding and necrotic nodes in the left perirectal region
- Colonoscopy showed scattered and patchy severe edema, erythema, and friability with shallow and deep rectal ulcerations.
- Labs revealed late latent syphilis infection (1:128 titer) and he was started on penicillin.



A G Right cooler, let cooler, let cooler, let cooler, and rectai togets with small magnification (a). On the rectai togety areas or devone inflammation (sue crece) and granulation taxue (red crecity) are noted. D # corresponding large magnification tragets (4b) showing biosphile filamentous develop packed sprinchesis on the santice optimism (green anow could) and interphiletel lymphocytes (red anowhould), in the case of the rectail biopsy.

Discussion

- In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of reported cases of syphilis, especially in men and transwomen who have sex with men.
- Lower gastrointestinal syphilis is a rare manifestation and needs to be recognized early to reduce patient morbidity and minimize community spread.

Conclusions

 Maintain a high index of suspicion for STI colitis in high-risk individuals presenting with lower gastrointestinal symptoms.