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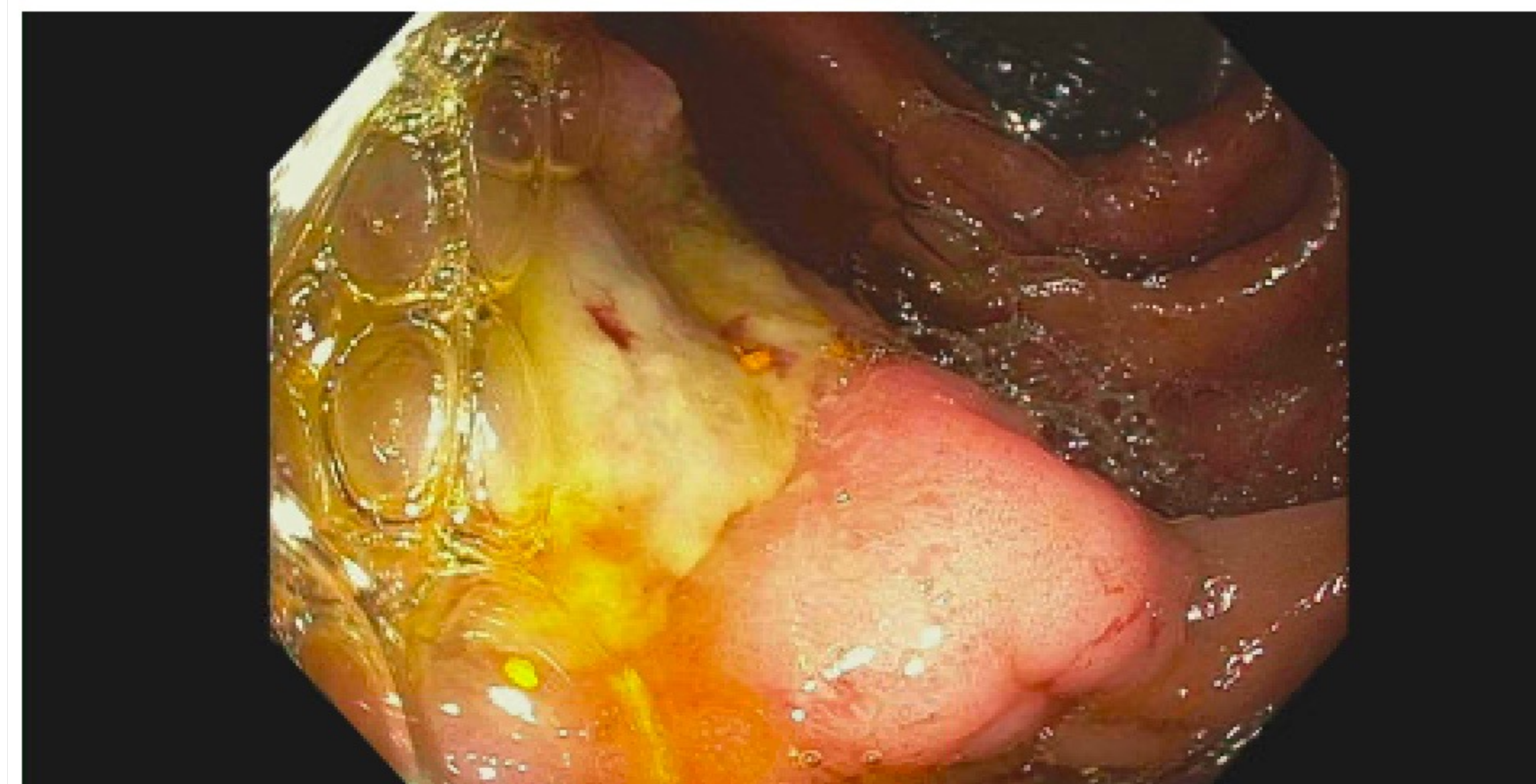
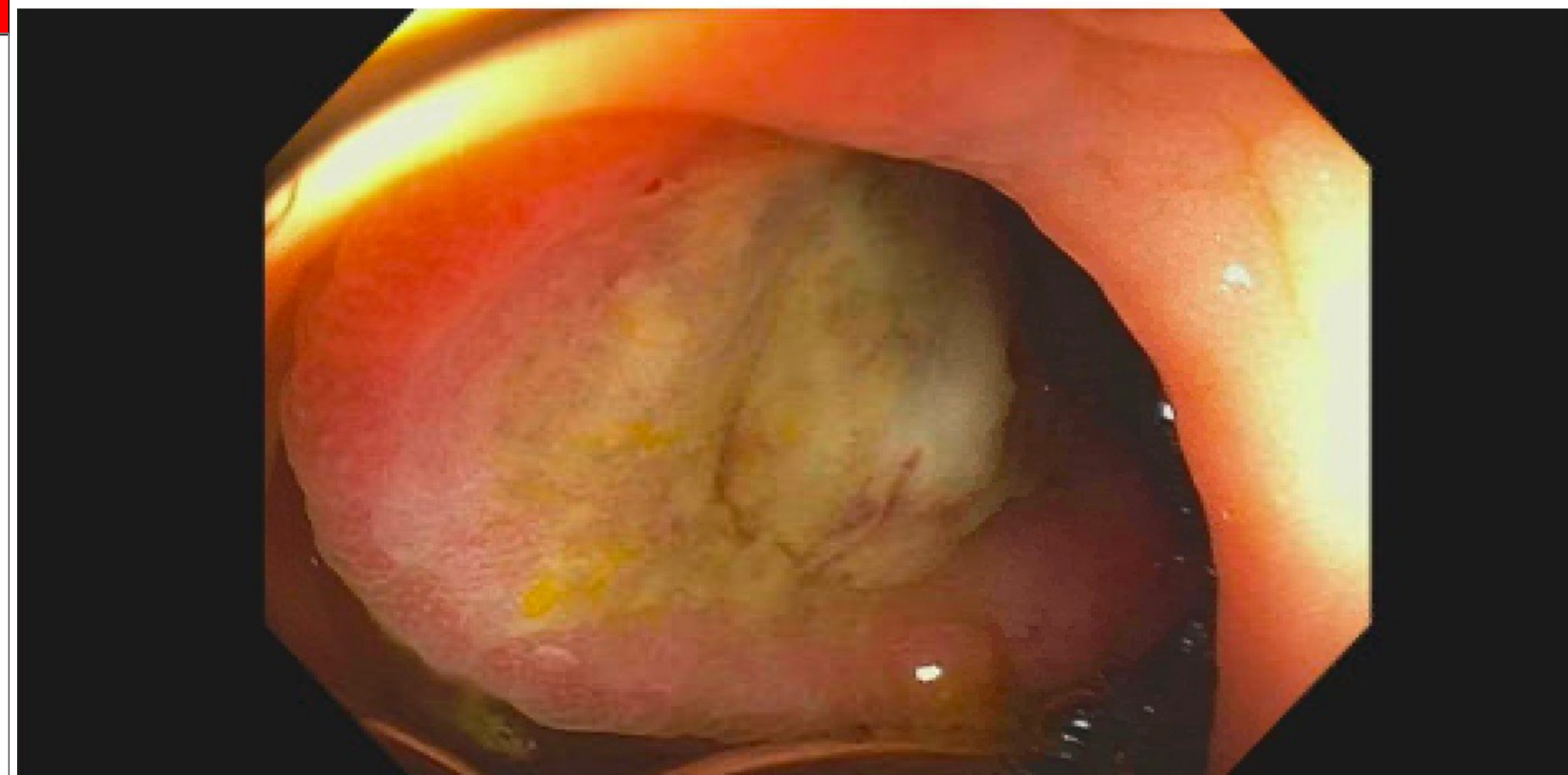
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INTRODUCTION

- Studies have shown that there are increasing incidents of gram-positive bacteremia in patients with colon cancer.
- The main causal organisms are staphylococci, streptococci, and enterococci.
- In patients with recurrent bacteremia of unclear etiology, an underlying colon mass should be considered.

CASE DESCRIPTION

- An 86-year-old man with a history of total aortic valve replacement, septic arthritis and and three episodes of recurrent cryptogenic enterococcus bacteremia presented with fever, chills and right knee pain.
- He was febrile on presentation with bilateral knee tenderness and swelling on exam.
- His labs were notable for leukocytosis and normocytic anemia.
- Blood cultures were drawn and he was empirically started on broad spectrum antibiotics. He underwent bilateral knee arthroscopi washout and preliminary cultures grew enterococcus faecalis.
- A transesophageal echocardiogram reveled a large mobile mass on the mitral valve consistent with a vegetation and septic endocarditis.
- The patient had previously undergone a broad work up to determine the source of his recurrent bacteremia including two PET-CT examinations, which were unrevealing.
- To further evaluate his bacteremia and anemia, a colonoscopy was performed, which revealed a large fungating, sessile ulcerated mass in the ascending colon. The mass was confirmed as invasive adenocarcinoma on pathology.
- The patient successfully underwent right hemicolectomy.



DISCUSSION

- There is a well-established association between *S. bovis* bacteremia and colon cancer. Appropriately, these patients often undergo a colonoscopy as part of their management.
- However, colonoscopy may not be offered in patients with bacteremia with less documented associations with colon cancer such as *E. faecalis*
- Given the increasing incidence of colon cancer associated gram positive bacteremia, colonoscopy should be considered in certain patients.
- Further research is needed to improve the study and documentation of *E. faecalis* and other organisms with associations with colon cancer .

Figure 1. Mass observed on colonoscopy from different angles

REFERENCES

1. Holland T, Fowler VG Jr, Shelburne SA 3rd. Invasive gram-positive bacterial infection in cancer patients. Clin Infect Dis. 2014 Nov 15;59 Suppl 5(Suppl 5):S331-4. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciu598. PMID: 25352626; PMCID: PMC4303051.