Solitary pyogenic granuloma of the small bowel as the cause of obscure gastrointestinal bleeding

Pyogenic granuloma is rare in the gastrointestinal tract and mostly occurs on the skin and in the oral cavity [1]. This type of lesion usually bleeds and is responsible for chronic anemia and gastrointestinal bleeding of unknown origin [2−5]. Here we report on a case of pyogenic granuloma in the jejunum diagnosed by capsule endoscopy and treated by snare polypectomy using double-balloon enteroscopy. A 55-year-old white man with no previous medical history presented with an 8-month history of anemia and a positive fecal occult blood test. His only complaint was weakness. He denied melena or hematochezia. Laboratory data were as follows: hemoglobin level, 9.9 g/dL (normal range, 12.8−16.5 g/dL); hematocrit level, 31% (normal range, 37%−52%); red blood cell count, $371 \times 10^{12}/mm^3$ (normal, $>420 \times 10^{12}/mm^3$); and platelet count, $253\,000/mm^3$ (normal, $>140\,000/mm^3$). During this period, he underwent upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, which revealed no potential bleeding lesion, and colonoscopy, which revealed sigmoid diverticulum and no signs of bleeding. Computed tomography scan of the abdomen was normal. Capsule endoscopy revealed a small hyperemic sessile polypoid lesion in the jejunum without bleeding (Fig. 1).

The patient underwent double-balloon endoscopy, which confirmed the findings of capsule endoscopy (Fig. 2) and permitted endoscopic diathermy snare polypectomy with no complications. The resected specimen was 4 mm in diameter. Histologic findings revealed proliferation and lobular arrangement of capillary vessels, swelling of the endothelial cells within edematous stroma, and mixed inflammatory cell infiltration (Fig. 3); these findings were compatible with pyogenic granuloma. There was no recurrence of gastrointestinal bleeding 10 months after the endoscopic resection. In conclusion, pyogenic granulomas of the small bowel should be considered as rare lesions that cause obscure gastrointestinal bleeding. With the advent of double-balloon enteroscopy, these lesions can be safely treated by endoscopic means.

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R. Kuga, C. K. Furuya Jr, S. N. Fylyk, P. Sakai
Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Unit, Department of Gastroenterology, Sao Paulo University Medical School, Sao Paulo, Brazil

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Corresponding author
R. Kuga MD
Rua Cincinato Braga
37-cj. 12
01333-011
São Paulo – SP
Brazil
Fax: +55-11-32850026
rogeriokuga@yahoo.com.br

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