

Visible peritoneal catheter during colonoscopy

A 54-year-old woman with a past history of IgA nephropathy, chronic renal failure, and hypertension was referred for outpatient colonoscopy to investigate a history of change in bowel habit with intermittent diarrhea. Non-invasive investigations including stool tests had failed to find a cause.

Physical examination revealed hypertension (blood pressure 160/80) but was otherwise normal. The colonoscopy was largely unremarkable; however the image depicts the unusual finding in the proximal transverse colon of a peritoneal dialysis catheter visibly indenting the wall of the colon (▶ **Fig. 1**). Perforation of a viscus is a recognised complication of peritoneal dialysis catheters, although in this case the patient was well and the catheter did not appear to be causing irritation to surrounding structures. This image, with its readily apparent transmural visualisation of an extramural catheter, reminds all who perform colonoscopy of just how thin the wall of the proximal colon is (approximately 3 mm) and that caution is constantly required to avoid inadvertent perforation.

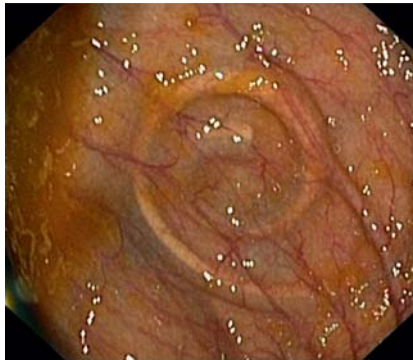


Fig. 1 Peritoneal dialysis catheter embedded in the wall of the proximal transverse colon.

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Competing interests: None

S. E. Mahady, M. Bourke
Department of Gastroenterology,
Westmead Hospital, Wentworthville,
New South Wales 2145, Australia

Bibliography

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Corresponding author

S. E. Mahady MBBS, FRACP
Department of Gastroenterology
Westmead Hospital
Wentworthville
New South Wales 2145
Australia
Fax: +61-2-98455118
Suzanne.mahady@gmail.com