Blue rubber bleb nevus syndrome (BRBNS) is a very rare condition. Herein we report the case of a 14-year-old girl who presented with chronic anemia that had required multiple blood transfusions and iron supplementation for many years. She had also received steroids. Physical examination revealed multiple small lesions on the dorsum of her feet (Fig. 1). Computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen showed multiple intraluminal lesions in the small bowel and colon (Fig. 2).

A gastroscopy was performed (Fig. 3), followed by a colonoscopy and uneventful polypectomy of the colonic lesions (Fig. 4; Video 1).

Histology revealed a cavernous hemangioma consistent with BRBNS. The patient underwent an exploratory laparotomy 1 week later during which she was found to have multiple lesions affecting the entire small bowel (Fig. 5), some of which had also caused intussusceptions of the small bowel. An enterotomy was performed; she underwent further polypectomy of the internal lesions and resection of small-bowel wall to remove lesions that were involving the muscle layer. She was discharged from the hospital on the seventh postoperative day and 1 year later is doing well, having required no further blood transfusions.

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Competing interests: None

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References


Fig. 3 Appearance at esophagastroduodenoscopy showing multiple submucosal lesions (white arrows) in: a the fundus of the stomach; b the body of the stomach; c the duodenum.

Fig. 4 Colonoscopic view showing one of the multiple small cystic polyps in the colon.

Fig. 5 Appearance of the small bowel at laparotomy showing multiple blebs within the wall of the small bowel.


Bibliography
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