Severe colitis related to granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener’s granulomatosis)

A 58-year-old man presented with weakness, cough, weight loss, and intermittent painless rectal bleeding showing extensive deep ulcer craters covered with fibrinous exudates.

Colonoscopy showed extensive deep ulcer craters covered with fibrinous exudates (Fig. 1). Biopsies from an ulcer in the rectum were carefully performed. Thoracic computed tomography (CT) showed bilateral perihilar infiltration, and ground-glass opacities and areas of consolidation in the middle right and left lobe (Fig. 2).

Because of the high suspicion of ischemia on colonoscopy, angiography was performed. This showed incomplete stenosis of the proximal portion of the left internal iliac artery (Fig. 3).

Repeat colonoscopy after 8 weeks of intensive immunosuppressive therapy showing regression of the deep ulcers (Fig. 4).

GPA, also known as Wegener’s granulomatosis, is an idiopathic ANCA-positive vasculitis involving vessels of small and medium size in many organs [1]. The respiratory tract, lungs, and kidneys are the organs most often affected; it very rarely involves organs of the gastrointestinal system. Gastrointestinal involvement has been described in 10%–24% of patients with GPA [2]. From the reports in the literature, cases respond well to intensive immunosuppressive treatment [3], but close follow-up is required to monitor for relapse and determine the involvement of other organs.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AD_2AF

Competing interests: None

Fatih Karaahmet1, Serta Kılıncalp1, Yusuf Coskun1, Sahin Coban1, Ilhami Yuksel1,2

1 Department of Gastroenterology, Diskapi Yıldırım Beyazıt Educational and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey
2 Department of Gastroenterology, Yıldırım Beyazıt University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

References


Bibliography

DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1365101
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E175
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Fatih Karaahmet, MD
Department of Gastroenterology
Diskapi Yıldırım Beyazıt Educational and Research Hospital
06080 Altındağ-Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90-312-3186690
fatih_ares@yahoo.com.tr