A 27-year-old woman underwent colonoscopy because of chronic constipation and a family history of colon cancer. Colonoscopy revealed a 1.2-cm yellowish sessile lesion with transparent overlying mucosa, at the descending colon (Figure 1a). The mass was firm in consistency. After a mucosal defect was created using a biopsy forceps, a yellowish mass was extruded that spontaneously separated into two fragments (Figure 1b). Endoscopic mucosal resection was done to remove residual mucosa.

Histopathologic examination of the mass revealed a well-demarcated plant skin surrounding multiple calcified cellular structures (Figure 2a). The possibility of it being a plant seed was considered. A fibrotic area, suspected to be a previous mucosal defect was found on the resected mucosa (arrow, Figure 2b). Finally, a stercolith embedded in the colon wall was diagnosed.

An intramural foreign body in the digestive tract is an unusual condition. A sharp foreign body easily damages the mucosa, increasing the likelihood of its becoming intramural. There are case reports of intramural foreign bodies in the esophagus [1], but this is the first report of a stercolith embedded in the wall of the colon. Removal of a submucosal tumor using a biopsy forceps has been reported [2], and we used the same method to successfully remove this intramucosal stercolith. In this case, we demonstrated not only the intramucosal location but also the mucosal defect where the foreign body might have entered.

References


Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AD_2AC
Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AD_2AH

Corresponding author

H.-P. Wang, MD
Department of Emergency Medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital
7 Chung-Shan South Road
Taipei 100, Taiwan
Fax: +886-2-23223150
Email: whp@ha.mc.ntu.edu.tw

DOI: 10.1055/s-2006-945132