A 47-year-old Hispanic man who had no significant past medical history was admitted to the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center with nausea and headache, which were followed by seizures. The patient had significant weight loss and an abdominal computed tomographic scan revealed thickening of the stomach wall (Figure 1). The patient initially refused upper endoscopy but agreed to undergo video capsule endoscopy, which showed lesions suggestive of Kaposi’s sarcoma in the small bowel (Figure 2). He subsequently agreed to undergo upper endoscopy for biopsy of the lesion and this examination revealed purplish nodular lesions in the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum. Push-enteroscopy showed typical Kaposi’s lesions in the jejunum (Figure 3). A biopsy of one of the lesions showed spindle-cell proliferation with vascular splits, an appearance consistent with a diagnosis of Kaposi’s sarcoma (Figure 4). Immunohistochemical testing for human herpesvirus 8 (HHV-8) showed a strong positive reaction (Figure 5). The patient was subsequently found to have a very low absolute CD4 count and he tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus, with a high viral load. The patient was started on highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) and was feeling much better when seen on follow-up 2 weeks later.

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S. Nagri1, S. Duddempudi1, S. Anand1, Y. Arya2

1 Department of Gastroenterology, Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn, New York City, New York, USA
2 Department of Gastroenterology, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York City, New York, USA

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Corresponding author
S. Nagri, MD
Department of Gastroenterology
Brooklyn Hospital Center
121 Dekalb Ave.
Brooklyn
New York 11201
USA
Fax: +1-347-426-4451
krishna1973@yahoo.com

Video capsule endoscopy in the diagnosis of gastrointestinal Kaposi’s sarcoma

Figure 1 A computed tomographic scan of the abdomen showed thickening of the stomach wall.

Figure 2 Small-bowel capsule endoscopy showed typical Kaposi’s sarcoma lesions.

Figure 3 Immunohistochemical testing for human herpes virus 8 (HHV-8) showed a strong positive reaction.

Figure 4 A high-power histological view of a biopsy specimen of one of the Kaposi’s sarcoma lesions.

Figure 5 Push-enteroscopic view showing a Kaposi’s sarcoma lesion in the jejunum.