

A rare landmark of cecal intubation

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Question

A 51-year-old Caucasian female with a past history of hypertension and hypothyroidism presented for a screening colonoscopy. Her surgical history was significant for a total abdominal hysterectomy. Abdominal examination was normal and laboratory findings were unremarkable. CT scan of the abdomen was performed which did not show any abnormalities or pathologies upon read. The patient underwent colonoscopy demonstrating diverticulosis and a 6 mm pedunculated polyp in the sigmoid colon. Polypectomy was performed using hot snare. A polypoid lesion was seen at the base of the appendiceal orifice (Figure 1-2).



Figure 1. Invaginated appendix seen on colonoscopy

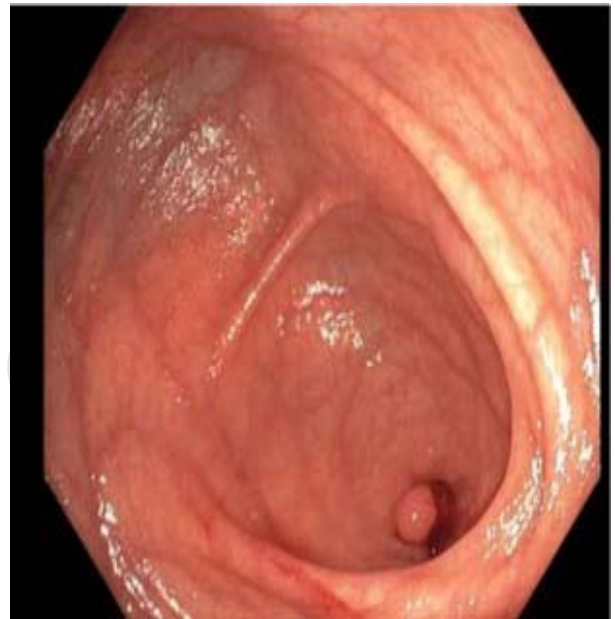


Figure 2. Invaginated appendix seen on colonoscopy

What is the diagnosis?

How should it be managed?

Received: 15 November 2018 Accepted: 18 December 2018
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Answer

The colonoscopy demonstrated a pedunculated lesion consistent with an invaginated appendix. The lesion was filiform with a normal appearing mucosa on endoscopic imaging with superficial biopsies of the lesion later displaying no dysplastic changes.

An invaginated appendix occurs when the appendix pulls itself into the cecum (1). The pathophysiological mechanisms can be divided into two groups: anatomical and pathological. Anatomical conditions include fetal abnormalities, a wide appendicular lumen, a meso-appendix free from fat, a mobile appendicular wall, and an appendix unfixated by peritoneal folds.

Pathological conditions resulting in an invaginated appendix include irritation secondary to fecaliths, foreign bodies, malignancy, parasites, endometrial implants, and lymphoid follicles (2). It is important for gastroenterologists to be aware of this condition to avoid unnecessary intervention and to consider this finding as a risk factor for appendiceal intussusception.

References

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