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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Clonorchis sinensis infection detected by capsule endoscopy



Clonorchiasis, also called clonorchis sinensis or liver fluke disease, is a kind of parasitosis with high infection rate in Eastern China and it is characterized with the proliferation of clonorchis sinensis in the bile duct. The majority of patients may ignore it due to the early atypical symptoms. While in the advanced stage, liver cirrhosis, cholangitis and even cholangiocarcinoma or liver cancer may be found in patients. The morphology of this parasite is hard to be found in human body and the following case illustrates the capsule endoscopy findings in clonorchiasis.

A 51-year-old man was admitted because of a chronic diarrhea and abdominal pain since two months ago. Laboratory data revealed: white cell count 20.08G/L with 45.4% eosinophils, fecal blood test was positive and clonorchis sinensis antibody (IgG) was positive. Stool samples for ova were negative for three times. Abdominal CT scan showed the dilation of intrahepatic bile duct. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy result presented duodenal bulb ulcer and complete colonoscopy result was normal. Capsule endoscopy (MiroCam) found multiple ulcers in the small bowel. Also, an oblate polypide, which like sunflower seed, was observed repeatedly in the small intestinal lumen by capsule endoscopy. (Fig. 1) His personal history revealed that he came from hyper endemic area for clonorchiasis

(Guangdong, Guangzhou) and his dietary habits include sashimi and raw shrimp. According to all the tests, the patient was diagnosed with clonorchiasis and the polypide detected by capsule endoscopy was thought to be the adult clonorchis sinensis. The patient was successfully treated with praziquantel (1.2 g tid orally). The diarrhea and abdominal pain relieved and eosinophils were normal after 2 months.

In the previous reports, parasites observed by endoscopy were mostly hookworms, roundworms and whipworms [1–5]. Adult liver fluke usually parasitizes bile duct of humankind or mammals, so it is rarely seen that the clonorchis sinensis is in the bowel lumen, let alone being found by capsule endoscopy. Because the detection rate of parasitological stool examination is low, capsule endoscopy findings may be beneficial to the auxiliary diagnosis of clonorchiasis.

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Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.



Figure 1 Clonorchis sinensis.

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