



A unique rectal lesion: heterotopic gastric mucosa with bland squamous cell epithelium

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An 86-year-old female having a colonoscopy for investigation of iron deficiency anemia was found to have an area of mucosal irregularity in the rectum near a diverticulum-like

structure. Multiple endoscopic biopsies showed heterotrophic gastric mucosa (HGM) associated with squamous epithelium. There are only 75 documented HGM cases in the literature,

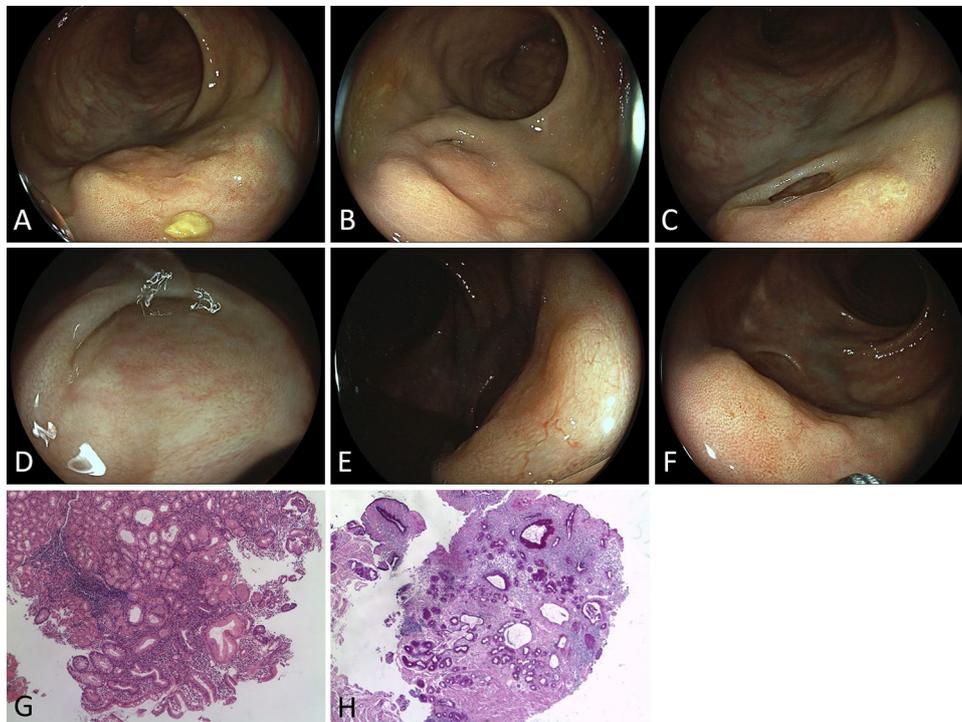


Fig. 1 **a** A slightly depressed, approximately 25-mm lesion with elevated borders emerged in the rectum at 6 cm from the anal verge. **b** At the most oral aspects, a possible fistula opening was noted. **c**, **d** Further assessment including water jet irrigation unmasked this as an associated diverticulum. **e** Close-up views indicated a rather unremarkable surface pattern with benign-appearing vessels. **f** Of note, there was a clear-cut lack of pigment deposition within the lesion, on a background of diffuse melanosis, suggesting non-colorectal mucosa. **g** Conventional pathological workup of multiple endoscopic

biopsies from the border and center of the lesion indicated ample fragments of colonic-type mucosa, that was, however, mixed with foveolar-type surface epithelium with underlying glands consistent with parietal and chief cells, confirming a diagnosis of heterotopic gastric mucosa (HGM) without dysplasia and/or *H. pylori*-like organisms (H&E hematoxylin and eosin stain). **h** Most intriguingly, yet another cell type was also identified within the HGM as bland squamous cell epithelium, likewise without signs of dysplasia. (PAS periodic acid–Schiff stain)

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with symptoms including rectal bleeding, perianal ulcer and/or abdominal pain. Diagnosis is typically based on biopsy, while physiological imaging by ^{99m}Tc pertechnetate is rarely necessary. Proton pump inhibitors are used for medical treatment as well as *H. pylori* eradication if appropriate. HGM associated with bland squamous cell epithelium, potentially related to aberrant differentiation of pluripotent stem cells, has only once been described in the literature so far [1]. Likewise, endoscopic presentation with an accompanying diverticulum has also been reported only one singular report before (Fig. 1) [2].

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Informed consent For this type of study, formal consent is not required.

Reference

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