



## Image of the Month

## A rare cause of hematochezia after colonoscopy

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A 56-year-old man presented to the emergency department complaining of left lower abdominal pain and hematochezia 4 h after a screening colonoscopy with carbon dioxide insufflation. He had no relevant medical history. The colonoscopy revealed several Ila hyperplastic polyps at the sigmoid colon, which were removed by cold forceps biopsy (Fig. 1). The patient was prepared for the colonoscopy with sodium phosphate, and the entire procedure took 33 min. Physical examination revealed soft abdomen with tenderness on the left lower quadrant without signs of peritonitis. Laboratory studies disclosed white blood cell, 13,000/mm<sup>3</sup> (normal, 4000–11,000); hemoglobin, 14.9 g/dl (13–17), c-reactive protein, 6.59 mg/dl (<0.5). He underwent repeat colonoscopy the following day, which revealed diffuse edematous mucosal inflammation, submucosal hemorrhage and ulceration with friable mucosa extending from the rectosigmoid to the descending colon region (Fig. 2). Abdominal computed tomography scan revealed diffuse edematous change from the descending to lower sigmoid colon region. Biopsy specimens were compatible with the findings of ischemic colitis. The patient was managed with bowel rest and

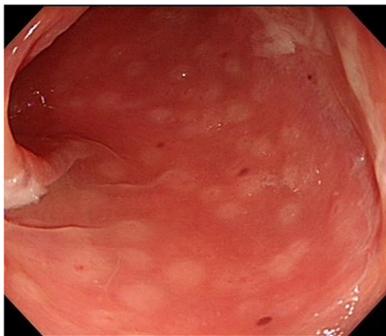


Fig. 1. Screening colonoscopy showed several Ila hyperplastic polyps.

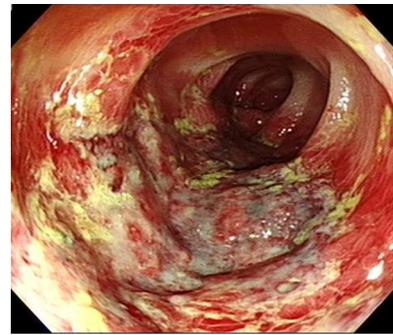


Fig. 2. Repeat colonoscopy showed diffuse edematous mucosal inflammation, submucosal hemorrhage and ulceration with friable mucosa extending from the rectosigmoid to the descending colon region.

administration of intravenous fluids and empirical antibiotics. His symptoms resolved without intervention and he was discharged on the seventh day of admission.

Colonoscopy is a rare cause of ischemic colitis with few reported cases [1]. Although the prognosis is favorable, clinicians should reduce colonoscopic procedure time, hyperinflation and hyperdistension to prevent barotrauma.

**Conflict of interest**

None declared.

**Reference**

- [1] Lee SO, Kim SH, Jung SH, Park CW, Lee MJ, Lee JA, et al. Colonoscopy-induced ischemic colitis in patients without risk factors. *World J Gastroenterol* 2014;20:3698–702.

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