



Ring-shaped fibroepithelial polyps of the anus

N. Tricomi¹ · L. Velci¹ · V. Podzemny¹

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Fibroepithelial polyps are fairly common benign lesions of the anal canal, thought to arise from hypertrophied anal papillae, as a response of the anoderm to irritation, damage or infection. These polyps are often confused with hemorrhoids and can grow to a large size, develop a remarkable shape and cause unusual clinical scenarios.

A 76-year-old otherwise healthy man had a history of a prolapsing anal mass requiring manual reduction for several years. Proctoscopy revealed a ring-shaped polyp, 7 cm long, connected at one end to the anterior part of the anal canal at the level of the dentate line and at the other end to the posterior part of the anal verge (Fig. 1a, b).

A 54-year-old otherwise healthy woman had a 7-year history of a prolapsing anal mass requiring manual reduction and tenesmus. Proctoscopy revealed a polyp, 6 cm long arising from 2 points on the posterior anal canal, (left and right posterolateral) above the dentate line (Fig. 2a, b).

In both cases the polyps were resected and the wound was left open to heal (Figs. 1c, 2c) and in both cases pathology showed benign fibroepithelial polyps.

While these polyps are typically pedunculated, unusual morphology and associated symptoms should not be a surprise once they reach a large size.

Informed consent Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

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Compliance with ethical standards

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

Ethical approval All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

✉ N. Tricomi
nicolatricomi1@gmail.com

¹ Proctology Unit, Candela Clinic, Palermo, Italy

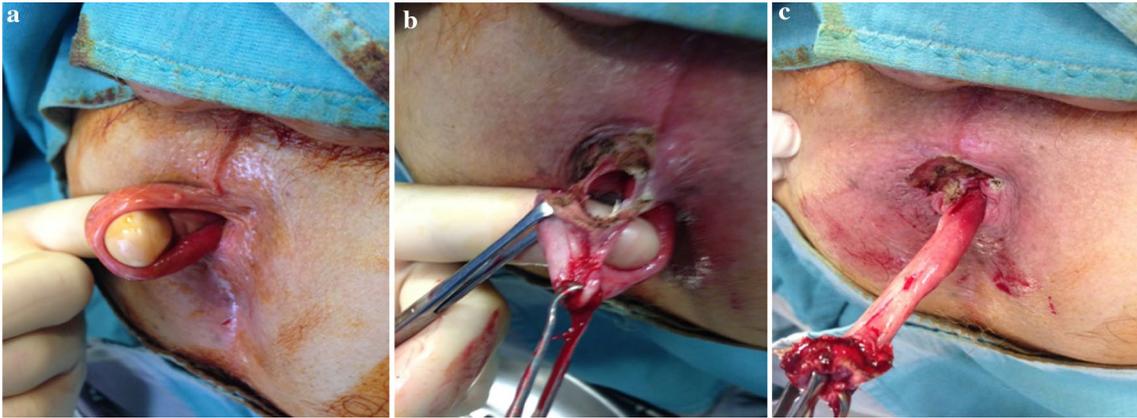


Fig. 1 a–c Ring-shaped fibroepithelial polyp

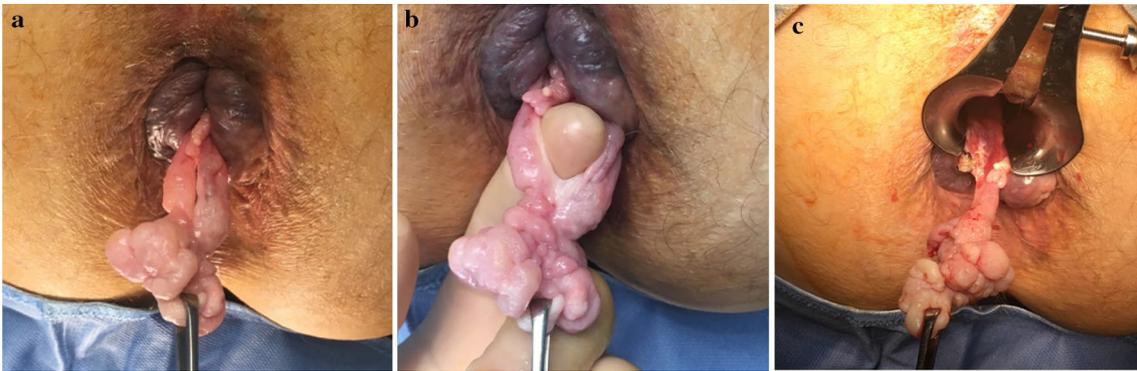


Fig. 2 a–c Fibroepithelial polyp bridging from 2 points in the posterior anal canal