

A case of epiploic appendagitis showing submucosal tumor like pattern on colonoscopy

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Introduction: To date, there has been no mention of colonoscopic findings that are accompanied by epiploic appendagitis. Perhaps, it is because colonoscopy is not necessary for diagnosis of epiploic appendagitis. Abdominal CT is the most commonly used technique for diagnosing epiploic appendagitis but it is difficult to differentiate from diverticulitis. In a patient who complained of lower abdominal pain, a submucosal tumor like lesion was found on sigmoid colon in a local clinic, and it was diagnosed to be an epiploic appendagitis finally at our hospital.

Case: A 54-year-old woman visited a local clinic due to a pain in the left lower abdomen and diarrhea once or twice a day. Although she was treated for colitis, the symptoms persisted and she came to our hospital after nine days from onset. When she came to our hospital, tenderness in the left lower abdomen was remained on physical examination and hsCRP was 1.27 mg/dL in the laboratory findings. Abdominal CT images [Fig. 1] of the local clinic show the pericolic fat stranding at sigmoid colon and it was suspected to be colitis or unspecified mass. Colonoscopic images [Fig. 2] of the local clinic show a submucosal tumor like lesion in sigmoid colon so it was biopsied. The specimen was confirmed to be a chronic inflammation by the local clinic. When we checked abdominal CT [Fig. 3] again, fatty masses with surrounding streaky densities connected to the serosal surface of the adjacent colon were seen and the reading was suggestive of diverticulitis or epiploic appendagitis. Because abdominal pain persisted over 7 days, with possibility of diverticulitis, we planned to treat her with antibiotics for six weeks and check follow-up abdominal CT and colonoscopy. After six weeks, abdominal CT [Fig. 4] showed much improved pericolic fat stranding at sigmoid colon. The follow-up colonoscopy [Fig. 5] did not show a submucosal mass like lesion, and precise examination did not find diverticulum, at all. So, submucosal tumor like lesion was thought to be a temporary tumor like lesion accompanied by inflammation. In summary, submucosal tumor like pattern can be seen by epiploic appendagitis on colonoscopy.

