Intestinal hookworm infestation causing chronic anaemia

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DESCRIPTION

This image (figure 1) is a photogram of a small-bowel capsule endoscopy and shows an intestinal *Taenia spp* causing persistent anaemia (requiring several blood transfusions) due to many jejunal and

Figure 1 The intestinal worm seen at 11 hours 07 min during the capsule endoscopy.

Figure 2 Mucosal multiple erosions caused by the intestinal worm.

ileal mucosal erosions (figure 2) in a 52-year-old patient under oral anticoagulant therapy. Both a previous oesophagogastroduodenoscopy and colonoscopy were negative for any bleeding source. Subsequent capsule endoscopy was performed to investigate this occult blood loss.^{1,2} The examination showed many mucosal erosions of the small bowel and a flat, segmented intestinal worm recognisable as a *Taenia spp*. After an adequate antiparasitic therapy, the patient reported no more anaemia. This is a rare finding during capsule endoscopy and was not evidenced by the analysing system.¹ Our case is in line with the reported cases in the available literature about intestinal worms' finding during capsule endoscopy.^{1,2}

Patient's perspective

I would like to thank you all the Endoscopy Team of Niguarda Hospital. My life was ruined by this chronic anaemia. I felt sick for all these months. Now, after few days of oral medications, I returned to life!

Learning points

- ▶ View and study all capsule endoscopy examination, especially if the 'main photograms' are not diagnostic.
- ▶ Think also about the rare cases of anaemia especially in case of occult blood loss.

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