

Diffuse Cavernous Hemangioma of the Colon

Safak Mirioglu, M.D.¹, Bilger Cavus, M.D.², Raim Iliaz, M.D.², Fatih Besisik, M.D.²

(1) Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey. (2) Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division, Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Abstract

A 70-year-old man was admitted to our clinic with a history of rectal bleeding and constipation, his colonoscopy revealed varicosities and bluish nodular lesions of the rectum (Figure 1). Abdominal CT showed multiple nodular lesions beginning from the distal descending colon and extending to the rectum, calcifications suggesting phleboliths were also seen in these lesions. A contrast enhanced pelvic MRI demonstrated multiple tubular lesions showing hyperintensity on T2-weighted images and hypointensity on T1-weighted images, consistent with the affected areas on the CT scan (Figure 2). It was a diffuse cavernous hemangioma, which mostly affects the rectosigmoid colon in the gastrointestinal tract, and can clinically mimic internal hemorrhoids, ulcerative colitis or cancer (1). Gastrointestinal hemangioma is a rare benign vascular neoplasm, and might be associated with a congenital disorder like Osler-Weber-Rendu disease, Maffucci's syndrome, Klippel-Trénaunay syndrome, or the congenital blue rubber bleb nevus syndrome (2). Even though there are different medical treatment options targeting VEGF and FGF-mediated pathways such as bevacizumab and thalidomide, and endoscopic approaches like sclerotherapy and electrocautery; complete resection of the hemangioma is the only curative treatment method (1, 3). Therefore, the patient was referred to department of surgery for a definitive treatment, and lost to follow-up.

Key words : cavernous hemangioma, colon.

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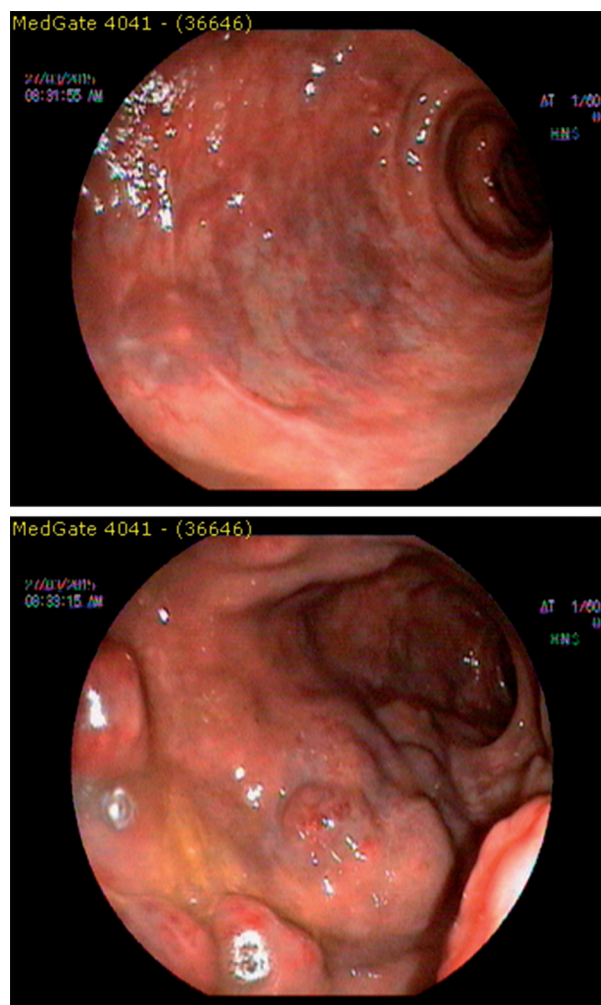


Fig. 1.— Varicosities and bluish nodular lesions of the rectum on colonoscopy.

Correspondence to: Safak Mirioglu, M.D. Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, 34093, Fatih, Istanbul, Turkey.
E-Mail: smirioglu@gmail.com
Phone: +90 212 414 20 00

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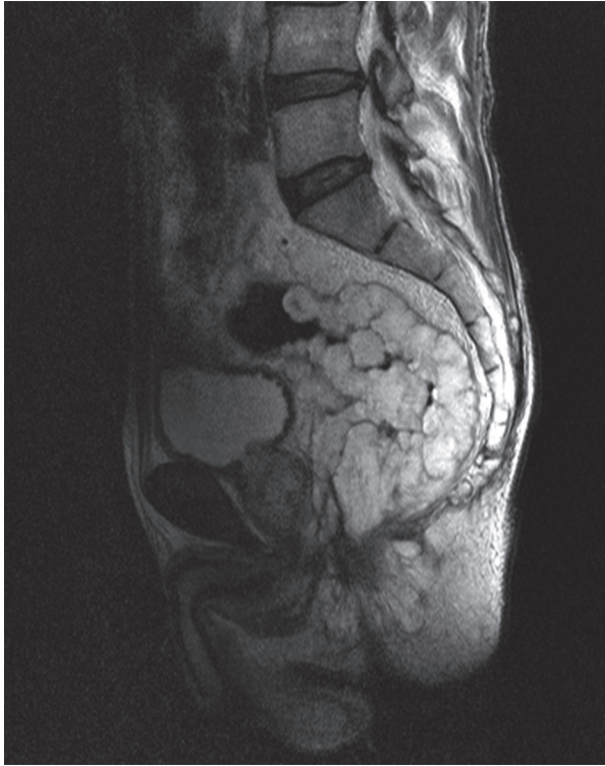


Fig. 2.— Contrast enhanced pelvic MRI. T2-weighted image demonstrates multiple tubular lesions suggesting diffuse cavernous hemangioma.

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