

Diffuse nodular duodenitis in a woman presenting with dyspepsia and weight loss

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Abstract

Duodenal nodularity is an uncommon endoscopic finding characterized by numerous visible mucosal nodules in the duodenum. It is important to consider giardiasis in patients with symptoms include abdominal pain, nausea, anorexia, diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss and abdominal distension. It is also important to remind giardiasis in patients with duodenal nodularity. (*Acta gastroenterol. belg.*, 2017, 80, 91).

Key words : duodenal nodularity, giardiasis.

A 35 year old female patient was admitted to our hospital with the complaints of fatigue, weight loss and dyspepsia. According to her medical history, there was not any known diseases and medications. Laboratory tests revealed hemoglobin: 12,7 gr/dl, ALT: 11 U/L, AST: 12 U/L, GGT:11 U/L, ALP:65 U/L, CRP:3,8 mg/L and albumin: 4,1 g/dL. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy was performed to elicit the cause of dyspepsia. There was not any significant finding in esophagus and stomach. However, there was diffuse nodularity in the bulb and second portion of the duodenum (Figure 1). What is your diagnosis?

Multiple biopsies were performed. Histological examination of the biopsy specimen revealed an enhanced lymphoid tissue hyperplasia. Additionally, Giardia organisms were seen on the surface of the mucosa (Figure 2). So, giardiasis was diagnosed as the cause of diffuse nodular duodenitis. Subsequently, metronidazole treatment was applied.

Duodenal nodularity is an uncommon endoscopic finding characterized by numerous visible mucosal nodules in the duodenum. Various etiologic factors may cause nodularity, including lymphoma, eosinophilic infiltration, Crohn's disease, gluten sensitive enteropathy and strongyloides stercoralis infection (1). Giardiasis is one of these factors and if untreated can cause serious dyspepsia and malabsorption. It is a common infection in both developed and developing countries. Most infected individuals are asymptomatic. It is important to consider giardiasis in patients with symptoms including abdominal pain, nausea, anorexia, diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss and abdominal distension (2). It is also important to consider giardiasis in patients with duodenal nodularity determined during endoscopic examination.



Fig. 1. — Duodenal nodularity

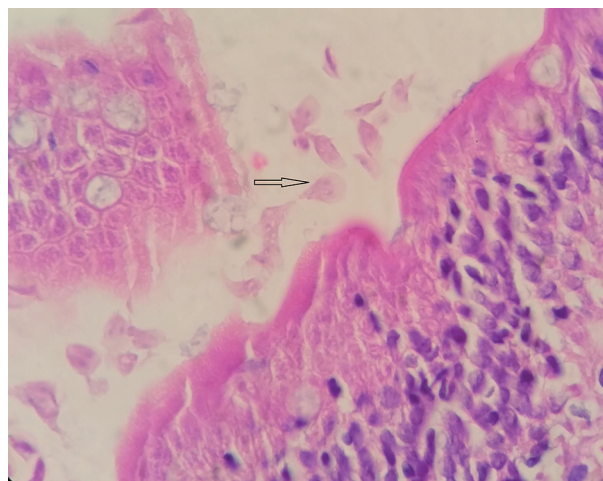


Fig. 2. — At higher power pair shaped, gray, binucleate Giardia organisms on the surface of the duodenal mucosa (arrow).

References

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