

Endoscopic submucosal dissection of a schwann cell hamartoma mimicking a lateral spreading tumor of the rectum

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To the editor,

We report a case of a 42 years old male with no past medical history or current medication was referred to our outpatient clinic due to rectal bleeding. Physical examination was unremarkable and laboratory data was normal.

Colonoscopy showed a 30x15mm flat granular lesion in the rectum, which did not present a typical pattern of adenoma on NBI evaluation. Biopsies were inconclusive for dysplasia and an endoscopic submucosal dissection was then performed with successful en bloc resection of the entire lesion (Fig. 1).

Pathological examination showed numerous spindle cells with elongated nuclei within the corion, without nuclear atypia, pleomorphism or mitoses. On immunohistochemical stain, the cells displayed a strong and diffuse positivity for S-100 protein, with no immunoreactivity to smooth muscle actin, desmin or epithelial membrane antigen, compatible with the diagnosis of a mucosa Schwann cell hamartoma (Fig. 2).

Benign nerve sheath tumors of mesenchymal origin are relatively common in the skin and somatic soft tissue. Despite increased recognition of these lesions in the last few years due to higher number of screening colonoscopies, involvement of the gastrointestinal tract is still considered very rare (1,2).

Pure schwann cell hamartomas consist of pure schwann cell proliferation (without other cells such as fibroblasts or axons) in the lamina propria, with S-100 protein immunoreactivity. (1,3) Histological differential diagnosis include mucosal neuromas, neurofibromas, ganglioneuromas, gastrointestinal stromal tumors and mucosal schwannomas (1,3,4).

In 2009, Gibson et al. classified the colonic mucosal schwann cell hamartoma without association of any inherited polyposis syndromes as a new entity, with 26 described cases. (1) Since then, only ten cases have been reported (5). They were predominantly located in the distal colon, were often asymptomatic and presented as small polyps (ranging from 1 to 8 mm) (5). To our knowledge, this is the first flat large Schwann cell hamartoma reported in literature.

Although malignant transformation has never been reported, clinical and endoscopic follow up might be considered.

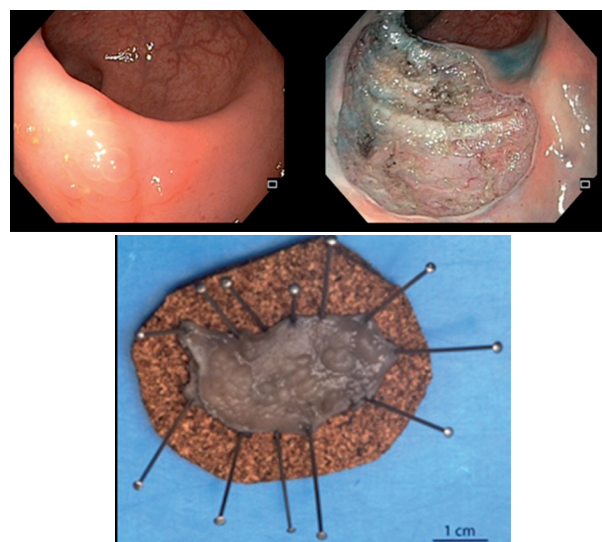


Figure 1.

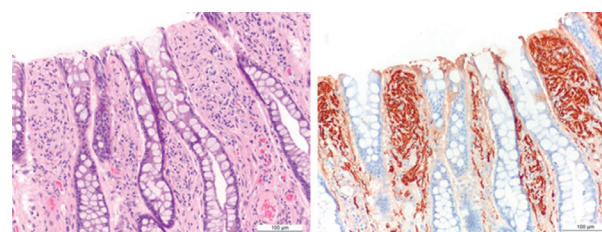


Figure 2.

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