Granuloma of the appendiceal stump

An unusual cause of right hemicolecotomy

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Case Report
A 71-year-old man was admitted with a history of sudden mild pain in the right iliac fossa, and stools of dark color. In admission, the physical examination revealed tenderness in the right iliac fossa only. The patient in his medical history reported appendicectomy 3 years before. On digital rectal examination, the only finding was blood on the examining finger, dark, and venous in character. From the hematological tests, a decreased hematocrit was noted (31%). Colonoscopy revealed an ulcerated mass in the cecum below the ileocecal valve, with oval shape measuring 2 x 2.5 cm, with active hemorrhage. After that, urgent surgery was indicated. Hematocrit was decreased to 28% during the following 2 hours. At operation, a cecal mass was palpated, and the whole colon was full of blood from the cecum onwards. According to a tentative diagnosis of a tumor (adenoma) of the cecum, a right hemicolecotomy was performed. The postoperative course was uneventful. The histological examination was a real surprise as the diagnosis proved granuloma of the appendiceal stump (Figure 1).

Discussion. We present a case of right hemicolecotomy due to a hemorrhagic granuloma of the appendiceal stump. The granuloma had been potentially developed on the suture thread, and subsequent ulceration resulted in hemorrhage. Cecal tumors are not common cases of serious intestinal hemorrhage. Most often enteric angiodysplasia, even of the appendix, Crohn’s disease, diverticulosis of the cecum, involve such a condition.1-3

Abstract
Granuloma of the appendiceal stump is not a common surgical entity. However, hemorrhage which may lead to right hemicolecotomy is rare in fact. We report this case, in order to avoid this kind of overtherapy.

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In conclusion, granuloma of the appendiceal stump must be differentially diagnosed from tumors of the cecum, in order to avoid major and useless operations; endoscopy surgeons must always have in mind this rare entity.

References