

UC Irvine

UC Irvine Previously Published Works

Title

Ileocolonic Intussusception Secondary to Colon Cancer: A Rare Cause of Abdominal Pain In Adults.

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8z13d8zd>

Journal

Cureus, 16(7)

ISSN

2168-8184

Authors

Ahmed, Mohamed

Allawi, Ahmed

Da Silva, Naofal

et al.

Publication Date

2024-07-01

DOI

10.7759/cureus.64442

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Peer reviewed

Ileocolonic Intussusception Secondary to Colon Cancer: A Rare Cause of Abdominal Pain In Adults

Review began 07/03/2024
Review ended 07/08/2024
Published 07/13/2024

© Copyright 2024

Ahmed et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License CC-BY 4.0., which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Mohamed Ahmed ¹, Ahmed Allawi ², Naofal K. Da Silva ², Rasha Saeed ³, Danya Auda ⁴

1. Surgery, University of California, Riverside, USA 2. Surgery, AdventHealth Tampa, Tampa, USA 3. Occupational Medicine/Environmental Medicine, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, USA 4. Psychology, University of California, Riverside, USA

Corresponding author: Mohamed Ahmed, maamsmd@yahoo.com

Abstract

Intussusception, defined as the telescoping of one segment of the gastrointestinal tract into an adjacent one, is a rare cause of abdominal pain in the adult population due to underlying benign or malignant pathology. With the liberal use of CT in the evaluation of patients with abdominal pain, the diagnosis became more reliable. Resection of the bowel segment is the recommended treatment in most cases. We are presenting the case of a 76-year-old male patient who presented with a three-week history of abdominal pain and diarrhea. The evaluation was consistent with ileocolic intussusception. Robotic resection of the right colon was performed. Pathology revealed poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma of the cecum as the underlying pathology.

Categories: Geriatrics, Emergency Medicine, General Surgery

Keywords: computerized tomography, robotic surgical procedures, non-bloody diarrhea, unexplained abdominal pain, ileocolonic intussusception

Introduction

Intussusception is defined as the invagination of a proximal bowel segment into the lumen of an adjacent distal segment. The incidence is two to three cases per 1,000,000 per annum. The age of presentation is highly variable, ranging from the neonatal period to the seventh decade of life [1]. Adult intussusception accounts for approximately 1% of all bowel obstructions and 5% of all intussusceptions with an incidence of 0.003-0.02% for in-hospital admissions [2]. The clinical presentation is often nonspecific, with symptoms and signs of bowel obstruction being common including but not limited to continuous abdominal pain, nausea with intermittent some sometimes feculent vomiting, variable degree of abdominal distention, and diffuse abdominal tenderness. Typical colicky abdominal pain is a common presentation in the pediatric population but is less common in adults [3]. Given this variability in presentation, the preoperative diagnosis can be challenging. Abdominal imaging, specifically CT scan, is the most effective tool with high sensitivity and specificity [4]. The etiology of adult intussusception can be due to benign, malignant, or idiopathic pathology [5].

Case Presentation

A 76-year-old otherwise healthy male presented to the emergency room with a three-week history of colicky abdominal pain and watery diarrhea. The patient denied any family history of colon-rectal cancer nor had a colonoscopy in the past. Laboratory findings revealed a normal white blood cell count of $9.44 \times 10^3/\text{ul}$ (reference range, $4.8-10.8 \times 10^3/\text{ul}$), hemoglobin 13 g/dl (reference range, 14.0-18.8 g/dl), blood urea nitrogen (BUN) 17 mg/dl (reference range, 7.0-18.0 mg/dl), creatinine 0.9 mg/dl (reference range, 0.60-1.3 mg/dl). The patient was hemodynamically stable, and afebrile, and physical evaluation revealed a non-distended soft abdomen with no peritoneal signs. A CT scan showed a long segmental ileocolic intussusception involving the right colon extending the proximal transverse colon with a mass (leading lesion) concerning underlying malignancy (Figure 1).

How to cite this article

Ahmed M, Allawi A, Da Silva N K, et al. (July 13, 2024) Ileocolonic Intussusception Secondary to Colon Cancer: A Rare Cause of Abdominal Pain In Adults. Cureus 16(7): e64442. DOI 10.7759/cureus.64442

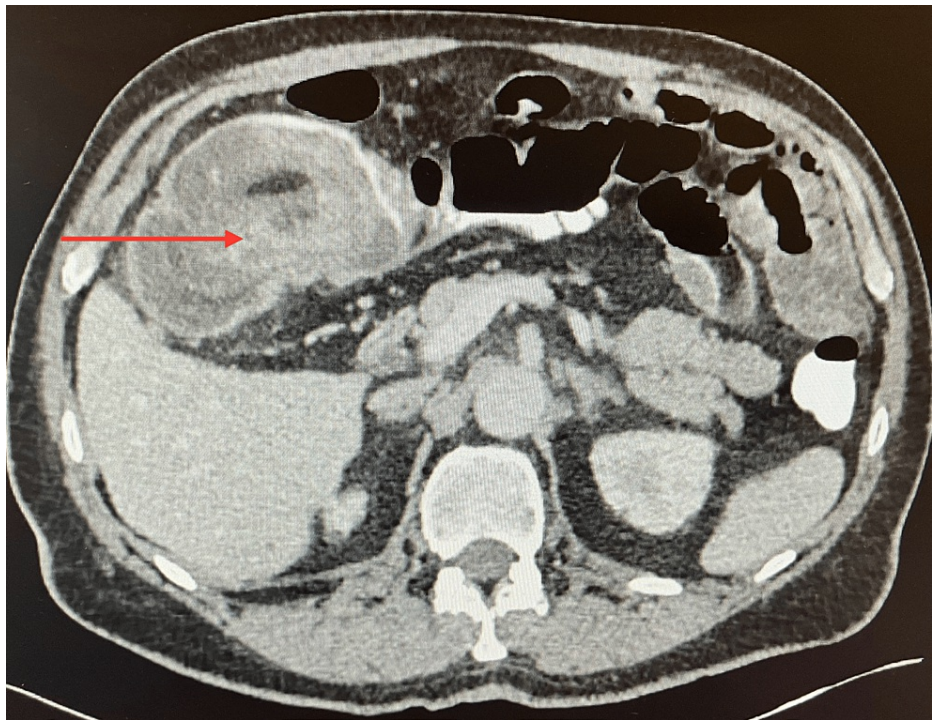


FIGURE 1: CT abdomen (axial) showing right colon intussusception (red arrow)

The patient was taken to the operating room and robotic right colon resection with primary anastomosis was performed (Figure 2).

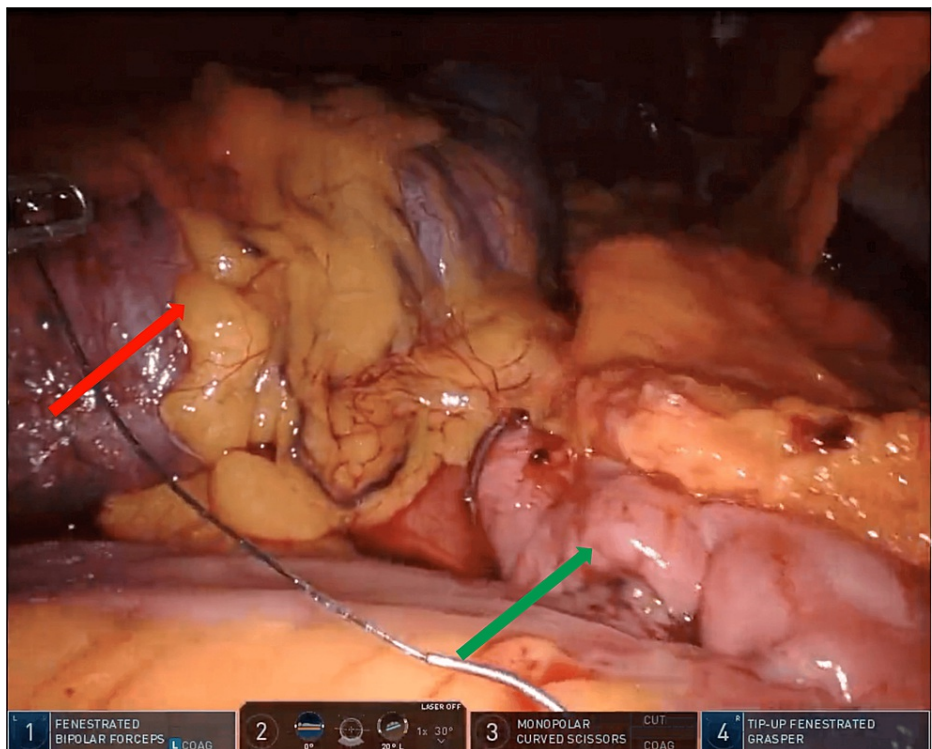


FIGURE 2: Robotic resection of the right colon

Resected right colon (red arrow), ileocolic anastomosis (green arrow)

The operative challenge was performing a high vascular ligation (ileocolic and right branch of the middle colic) as the mesentery of the ascending colon was also intussuscepting (Video 1).



VIDEO 1: Robotic right hemicolectomy in a case of ileocolic intussusception

View video here: <https://youtu.be/XFwQhMHiatA>

The patient had a non-eventful postoperative recovery and a regular oral diet was started on postoperative day 1. He was discharged from the hospital on postoperative day three. Pathology revealed intussusception with poorly differentiated invasive adenocarcinoma of the cecum (6.2x6x3 cm), 23 lymph nodes, negative for metastatic carcinoma.

Discussion

Paul Barbete was the first to describe Intussusception in 1674 as the invagination of the proximal portion of the intestine (intussusceptum) into the distal portion of the intestine (intussusciens) in a telescope-like fashion [6]. Sir Jonathan Hutchinson first described a reduction of intussusception in 1871 [7]. Intussusception commonly occurs at the junctions between freely moving segments and retroperitoneally or fixed segments secondary to adhesions [8].

Symptoms include episodes of intermittent abdominal pain and vomiting [9]. Patients may present with bowel obstruction symptoms including crampy abdominal pain (71%), nausea and vomiting (68%), abdominal fullness (45%), and tenderness (60%) [10]. In the adult population, intussusception is the result of a malignant colonic lesion in 43% of patients and benign pathology in 57% of patients with CT scanning as the most useful diagnostic radiologic method, with the typical target or sausage signs being the most common finding [11].

Barium enema or colonoscopy can reveal, reduce, and diagnose the cause of intussusception guiding treatment decisions [12]. Surgical resection without reduction is the main treatment for intussusception due to the high probability of malignant etiology. Minimally invasive approaches such as laparoscopic or robotic surgery have been frequently employed given their favorable shorter stay and lower postoperative pain profile. However, when benign pathology is suspected polys or colon lipoma endoscopic reduction and resection of small <2 cm benign tumors can be an option [13,14]. Robotic resection is safe and effective for complex cases in colorectal surgery [15].

Conclusions

Colon intussusception is rare in adults and can present with vague symptoms. Abdominal pain can be the presentation. CT scanning is the most useful diagnostic radiologic method. Enema and colonoscopy can be helpful and endoscopic resection is recommended for benign tumors less than 2 cm. Surgical oncological resection of the intussusception without reduction is the treatment in the elderly when underlying malignancy is suspected. Robotic resections yield more harvested lymph nodes, finer resection margins, and shorter hospital lengths of stay.

Additional Information

Author Contributions

All authors have reviewed the final version to be published and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Concept and design: Mohamed Ahmed, Ahmed Allawi

Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: Mohamed Ahmed, Danya Auda, Rasha Saeed, Ahmed Allawi, Naofal K. Da Silva

Drafting of the manuscript: Mohamed Ahmed, Danya Auda, Rasha Saeed, Ahmed Allawi, Naofal K. Da Silva

Critical review of the manuscript for important intellectual content: Mohamed Ahmed, Rasha Saeed, Ahmed Allawi

Supervision: Mohamed Ahmed

Disclosures

Human subjects: Consent was obtained or waived by all participants in this study. **Conflicts of interest:** In compliance with the ICMJE uniform disclosure form, all authors declare the following: **Payment/services info:** All authors have declared that no financial support was received from any organization for the submitted work. **Financial relationships:** All authors have declared that they have no financial relationships at present or within the previous three years with any organizations that might have an interest in the submitted work. **Other relationships:** All authors have declared that there are no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work.

References

1. Ahmed M, Habis S, Saeed R, Mahmoud A, Plurad D: Submucosal lipomas causing intussusception and small bowel obstruction: a case report. *Cureus*. 2018, 10:e3692. [10.7759/cureus.3692](https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.3692)
2. Teixeira H, Hauswirth F, Römer N, Müller MK, Baechtold M: An ileo-colic intussusception reaching down to the descending colon - a case report. *Int J Surg Case Rep*. 2022, 95:107009. [10.1016/j.ijscr.2022.107009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijscr.2022.107009)
3. Ravendran K, Abiola E, Balagumar K, et al.: A review of robotic surgery in colorectal surgery. *Cureus*. 2023, 15:e37337. [10.7759/cureus.37337](https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.37337)
4. Marinis A, Yiallourou A, Samanides L, Dafnios N, Anastasopoulos G, Vassiliou I, Theodosopoulos T: Intussusception of the bowel in adults: a review. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2009, 15:407-11. [10.3748/wjg.15.407](https://doi.org/10.3748/wjg.15.407)
5. Aydin N, Roth A, Misra S: Surgical versus conservative management of adult intussusception: case series and review. *Int J Surg Case Rep*. 2016, 20:142-6. [10.1016/j.ijscr.2016.01.019](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijscr.2016.01.019)
6. Honjo H, Mike M, Kusanagi H, Kano N: Adult intussusception: a retrospective review. *World J Surg*. 2015, 39:134-8. [10.1007/s00268-014-2759-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00268-014-2759-9)
7. Hutchinson J: A successful case of abdominal section for intussusception, with remarks on this and other methods of treatment. *Med Chir Trans*. 1874, 57:31-75.
8. Martín Domínguez V, Moreno-Monteagudo JA, Santander C: Giant colon lipoma complicated with intussusception and low digestive hemorrhage. *Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2021, 44:126-8. [10.1016/j.gastrohep.2020.05.025](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gastrohep.2020.05.025)
9. Gordon RS, O'Dell KB, Namon AJ: Intussusception in the adult--a rare disease. *J Emerg Med*. 1991, 9:337-42. [10.1016/0736-4679\(91\)90377-r](https://doi.org/10.1016/0736-4679(91)90377-r)
10. Felix EL, Cohen MH, Bernstein AD: Adult intussusception; case report of recurrent intussusception and review of the literature. *Am J Surg*. 1976, 131:758-61. [10.1016/0002-9610\(76\)90196-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0002-9610(76)90196-3)
11. Azar T, Berger DL: Adult intussusception. *Ann Surg*. 1997, 226:134-8.
12. Omori H, Asahi H, Inoue Y, Irinoda T, Takahashi M, Saito K: Intussusception in adults: a 21-year experience in the university-affiliated emergency center and indication for nonoperative reduction. *Dig Surg*. 2003, 20:433-9. [10.1159/000072712](https://doi.org/10.1159/000072712)
13. Mnif L, Amouri A, Masmoudi MA, Mezghanni A, Gouiaa N, Boudawara T, Tahrir N: Giant lipoma of the transverse colon: a case report and review of the literature. *Tunis Med*. 2009, 87:398-402.
14. Ahmed SM, Borz-Baba C, Gokturk S: Trapped in the bowel. *Cureus*. 2021, 13:e19534. [10.7759/cureus.19534](https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.19534)
15. Guerrieri M, Campagnacci R, Sperti P, Belfiori G, Gesuita R, Ghiselli R: Totally robotic vs 3D laparoscopic colectomy: a single centers preliminary experience. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2015, 21:15152-9. [10.3748/wjg.v21.i46.15152](https://doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v21.i46.15152)