Primary Malignant Lymphoma of the Ileum Presenting as Intussusception

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A 41-year-old woman presented with a 2-month history of continuous watery diarrhea, with conservative treatment at other hospitals. Abdominal examination revealed a soft longitudinal sausage-like mass (5×10 cm) in her right lower quadrant. An abdominal ultrasonography demonstrated a hypoechoic solid lesion (40×50 mm in diameter) as a lead-point (arrowhead) and multiple parallel bowel layers in the longitudinal section image (Picture 1a). A transverse-section image demonstrated a “target sign”, consistent with the diagnosis of intussusception (Picture 1b). Computed tomography confirmed these images and barium enema showed meniscus sign at the ascending colon (Picture 1c) although repositioning was observed during the procedure. At operation, ileo-colic intussusception was found with a Bormman I type elevated lesion (45×65 mm) at the terminal ileum and a short ileal resection was performed. Histology showed diffuse large B cell type of malignant lymphoma with serous invasion. No systemic lymphadenopathy was found.

The diagnosis of intussusception is not always easy because the clinical symptoms and signs are non-specific.

Picture 1.

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However, its diagnosis can be easier if a sausage-shaped abdominal mass is found, or if characteristic findings are demonstrable by the initial ultrasonography although its accuracy is not high (1).

Reference