Unusual Colonoscopic View of Enterobius vermicularis

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A 32-year-old Caucasian woman, who lived in Japan, had noticed some white worms in her diarrheal stool for 2 months. She had no other symptoms, such as perianal itching. Three years previously, she lived in the United States, she found similar worms in her stool and took an over-the-counter agent by diagnosing herself as ‘parasitism’. During a purgative treatment prior to a colonoscopy examination, no worms were observed macroscopically. However, numerous white worms, moving in a winding manner, were observed in the ileocecal region during the colonoscopy (Picture 1). Some of the worms hid under the intestinal mucosa (Picture 2). The worms, approximately 4 to 5 millimeters long, were adult male Enterobius vermicularis as confirmed by microscopy. The patient was treated with 500 mg of pyrantel pamoate. Most cases of Enterobius vermicularis are asymptomatic. Perianal itching is believed to be the most common symptom, However such itching occurs in only 33% of patients (1). Visualization of the worms by endoscopy is unusual (2).

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References

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