Chemotherapy-induced Small Bowel Injury

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The patient was a 72-year-old man who received chemotherapy consisting of S-1, an oral fluoropyrimidine, and cisplatin for metastatic gastric cancer. He presented with severe diarrhea on day 13 after the initiation of chemotherapy; he had not been given any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. A stool culture revealed no causative bacteria, and the diarrhea was thus considered to have been caused by the chemotherapy. Video capsule endoscopy (VCE) showed multiple shallow ulcers throughout the small bowel (Picture). The patient received intensive care, including loperamide, intravenous fluids and antibiotics, and recovered well from his symptoms.

Diarrhea is a common and significant toxicity associated with chemotherapy, especially fluoropyrimidines and irinotecan (1). VCE is recognized to be a useful tool for evaluating the small bowel mucosa (2) and enables noninvasive imaging of the entire small bowel. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report to identify chemotherapy-induced small bowel lesions using VCE.

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References