

Primary signet ring cell carcinoma of colon—an unusual presentation

Vijay Arya*, Prag Gupta, Manish Sheth, Yashpal Arya, Afaf Abdu, Douglas Kim.
Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, United States.

Purpose: Signet ring cell carcinoma is a very rare neoplasm. A review of literature suggests that the incidence is about 1%.

Methods: A 36 year old hispanic male, with family history of colon adenocarcinoma (mother died of colon cancer at the age of 70 and one sister underwent curative colon resection), presented with severe right lower quadrant abdominal pain. He underwent an emergency exploratory laparotomy with appendectomy and resection of Meckel's diverticulum. Post-operatively the patient continued to complain of abdominal pain. A CT Scan of the abdomen showed a large mass involving the right side of the colon. On colonoscopy a near total obstructing lesion was seen at the hepatic flexure. Microscopically the mucosa was largely intact with infiltrating signet ring cell carcinoma cells up to serosa, with negative lymph nodes and no peritoneal mets. The patient had a satisfactory colonoscopy up to the caecum which was reported normal three years back.

Conclusions: This case illustrates unusual features:

1. Signet ring cell carcinoma with intact mucosa;
2. Submucosal/stromal origin (negative colonoscopy three years back).