Image

Hookworm infestation of antrum of stomach

A 52 year-old man presented with recent onset of exertional dyspnea and dyspepsia. There was no history of gastrointestinal bleeding. Physical examination was normal except for pallor. Investigations: hemoglobin 7.5 g/dL, total leukocyte count 5,600/mm³, platelets 210,000/mm³. Peripheral smear showed microcytic hypochromic anemia. Fecal occult blood test was positive. Endoscopy showed multiple punctate hemorrhagic areas in the antrum with slender, short, reddish worms in the same location (Fig). The worms were attached to the mucosa and showed active movement. No worms were seen in the first or second part of duodenum. Under light microscope, the worms were identified as *Ancylostoma duodenale* and the crushed specimens showed ova of hookworms. The patient was treated with albendazole 400 mg single dose followed by hematins. Two months later, the patient has improved, stool occult blood test was negative, and hemoglobin was 12.2 g/dL.

Hookworms develop into adult worms in the upper small intestine and attach to the small intestinal mucosa. Very rarely, they are retrieved from ectopic sites like the stomach and cecum. Ectopic localization in the antrum of the stomach has been attributed to jejuno-duodeno-gastric reflux.

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Fig: Endoscopy showing hookworms in antrum of stomach

References


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