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Neuroendocrine tumour of the terminal ileum: A case report

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Statement of the Problem/ Background: A neuroendocrine tumour (NET) is a neoplasm of the neuroendocrine system. The occurrence of this type of tumour in the small intestine is rare and patients often present with non-specific clinical symptoms making an early diagnosis quite challenging. Case presentation/ orientation: A 59-year-old man presented with abdominal pain, loose stools and a significant reduction in weight over several weeks prior to his presentation. As such, he underwent a colonoscopy which revealed some abnormality of the ileocaecal valve. Some stool sample was also taken which showed a normal quantitative faecal immunochemical test (qFIT) but slightly elevated faecal calprotectin. Thereafter, an MRI of the abdomen was notable for an enlarged ileo-colic lymph node (16 cm) and confirmed the presence of a polyp (1 cm) in the terminal ileum. The patient also got a CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis done which showed no evidence of metastasis. A biopsy of the polyp following its removal confirmed a small intestinal differentiated grade 2 neuro-endocrine tumour with Ki67 index of 4 percent and 1 mitoses per 10 HPF. His octreotide scan did not indicate any tekrotyd avid disease following which he underwent a right hemicolectomy in which around 15 cm of his small bowel was excised. Patient is recovering well post-surgery and is under cancer surveillance. Discussion/ findings: The clinical features of patients with an NET in the small intestine are very diverse. Therefore, the diagnostic and treatment modalities vary from patient to patient and need to be tailored to each individual. An important feature of NETs in the terminal ileum is early lymph node invasion which is why patients should be closely monitored for recurrences despite of removing the affected lymph nodes. Conclusion: Terminal ileum-located NETs are not diagnosed very often and the non-specific symptoms which patients present with poses a challenge in making an early and prompt diagnosis.

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Biography

Aneesah Bashir is a third-year medical student at Glasgow with an interest in surgery. She has always been keen in writing articles on various topics within medicine including case reports. She has been involved in organizing conferences and presenting posters whilst at medical school.

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