

The Hidden Mass: A Rare Case of Mesenteric Lymphangioma in a Teen

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Mesenteric lymphangiomas are rare, benign cystic tumors formed by lymphatic vessel malformations with an unknown etiology that often masquerade as other more common abdominal conditions, making diagnosis tricky, especially in children. We present an intriguing case of a 13-year-old patient who arrived with vague abdominal discomfort since 2 weeks and a non-specific palpable mass. Advanced imaging unveiled a complex cystic lesion nestled in the mesentery of the small bowel loops, raising clinical suspicion and a varied differential diagnosis. Surgical exploration followed by complete excision of the mass not only resolved the symptoms but also confirmed the diagnosis of mesenteric lymphangioma through detailed histopathological examination. This case underscores the vital role of thorough clinical evaluation and imaging in solving unusual pediatric abdominal puzzles. Though it is usually asymptomatic, this report also highlights immediate surgical resection as the definitive cure to prevent potential complications like obstruction and recurrence. The patient suffered no complications during the post-operative period and is currently doing well. Through this case, we invite clinicians to keep this rare entity on their radar when faced with puzzling abdominal masses, particularly in children.

Biography

Dr. Sneha Zakkir graduated from her medical course in 2024 and is currently working in the General Surgery department of Aster Whitefield Hospital in Bangalore, India. She is passionate about surgery and aims to bring innovation through research and practice.

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Abstract received : June 06, 2025 | Abstract accepted : June 08, 2025 | Abstract published : December 15, 2025