Lateef et al., J Clin Case Rep 2012, 2:11
DOI: 10.4172/2165-7920.1000174

Journal of Clinical Case Reports

Case Report Open Access

Unusual Presentation of *Ascaris lumbricoids*

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Summary

Ascariasis is the most common helminthic infestation in India. It affects mainly children of low socioeconomic status whose standards of public health and personal hygiene are at the lowest. *Ascaris lumbricoides* infestation can lead to serious complications because of the wander lust of the worms. Complications such as intestinal obstruction, volvulus, gangrene, pancreatitis, biliary obstruction, cholangiohepatitis and liver abscess have been reported to occur. We report a case where ascaris was seen blocking jejunostomy tube.

Keywords: Ascaris; Jejunostomy; Esophagectomy

Case Summary

A 65 year old male presented with history of dysphagia, weight loss from last one month. Physical examination revealed an emaciated male with gross pallor. Investigations revealed Hb of 7 g/dl, albumin of 2.5 g/dl. Upper GI endoscopy was done which showed an ulceroproliferative growth at 30 cms from incisors. Histologically it was a squamous cell carcinoma. Transhaital esophagogastrectomy was done. Feeding jejunostomy was added for enteral feeding. Patient was started on jejunostomy feed on 2nd postoperative day. On 5th post operative day patient developed leak at jejunostomy site. Besides jejunostomy tube got blocked. It was decided to remove jejunostomy tube and put the patient on parental nutrition. Jejunostomy tube was removed. A long 10 cm ascaris was found blocking the jejunostomy tube (Figure 1). On 9th POD dye study was done which showed no leak. Orals were started and patient was discharged and is on follow up.

Discussion

Ascaris lumbricoids is the most common intestinal parasite in India [1]. It is estimated that it infects about one quarter of world's population in developing countries. Adult worm usually live in human intestines, and sometimes migrate to the biliary duct, pancreatic duct etc. Maximum incidence is in school age children. Adult worms reside in the jejunal lumen and maintain their position by muscle tone. The adult worms produce symptoms owing to migration to other sites or owing to mechanical obstruction of small intestine. *Ascaris lumbricoides* has a tendency to migrate through natural body orifices and enter Wirsung's duct and common bile duct through papilla of Vater [2].

Figure 1: A long 10 cm ascaris was found blocking the jejunostomy tube.

Invasion into the gall bladder is rare owing to the presence of tortuous and narrow cystic duct. The female parasite is more prone to penetrate through the orifices particularly if the previous sphinterotomy or bilioenteric anastomosis was performed [3,4]. Pregnant women may be more susceptible due to relaxant effect of hormones on the smooth muscle of the bile ducts. A case of ascaris coming out with T Tube tract has been reported by Kar et al. We report a case of ascaris blocking jejunostomy tube causing its obstruction. To our best knowledge it is the first reported case in literature.

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Received May 02, 2012; **Accepted** July 20, 2012; **Published** July 23, 2012

Citation: Lateef WM, Hakeem ZA, Gani AA, Shadab NW, Ul-Hassan N, et al. (2012) Unusual Presentation of Ascaris lumbricoids. J Clin Case Rep 2:174. doi:10.4172/2165-7920.1000174