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CASE IMAGE

Uncovering Meckel's diverticulum: A case of gastrointestinal bleeding in a young child

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endoscopy, hematochezia, laparotomy, scintigraphy

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A 1-year-old boy presented to the emergency department with hematochezia and blood clots following recovery from acute bronchiolitis. Due to a significant drop in hemoglobin, he received a blood transfusion. Abdominal ultrasound and laboratory tests showed no abnormalities. Suspecting Meckel's diverticulum (MD), scintigraphy was performed twice, with both results being negative.

To rule out other potential causes of gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding, upper and lower GI endoscopies were conducted. The mucosa appeared normal, with no clear source of bleeding. Given the high clinical suspicion of MD, a large portion of the terminal ileum was examined, and approximately 40 cm from the Bauhin's valve, a double lumen was observed (Figure 1), without signs of active bleeding or ulceration at the site.

A scheduled exploratory laparotomy was performed, during which MD was discovered at the proposed site after colonoscopy and removed. Histology confirmed MD with ectopic gastric mucosa (Figure 2).

MD is the most common congenital gastrointestinal malformation and a significant cause of GI bleeding in young children, with the potential for serious complications, if undiagnosed.[1] While Meckel's scintigraphy has high specificity, its sensitivity is moderate, meaning negative results do not rule out MD.[2] To reduce the need for exploratory laparotomy, colonoscopy or capsule endoscopy[3] can serve as less invasive alternative diagnostic tools.

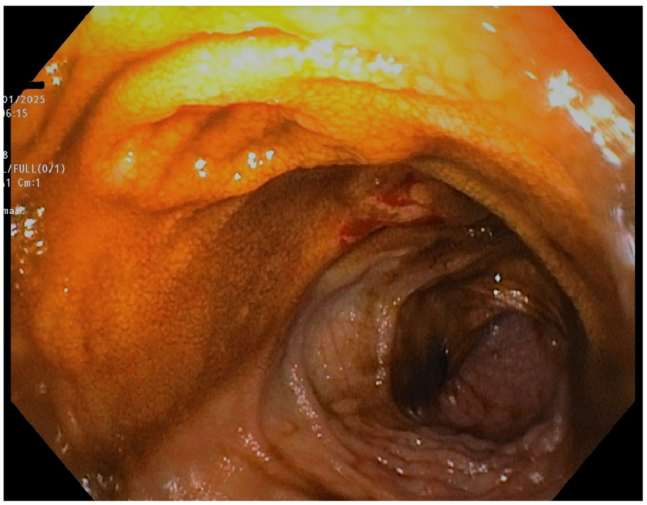

FIGURE 1 Double lumen suggesting the presence of Meckel's diverticulum.

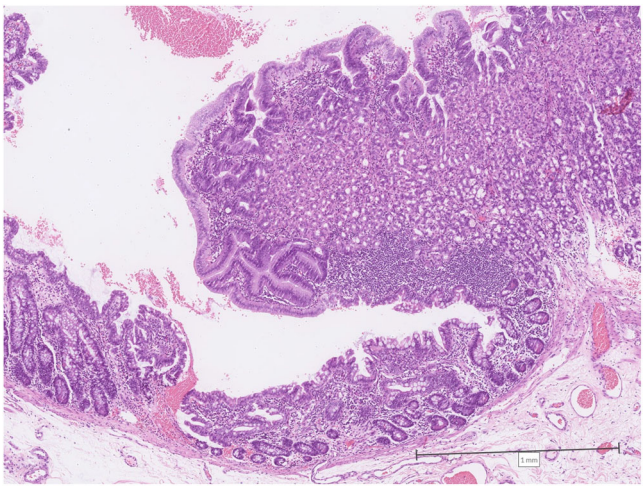

FIGURE 2 Histology showing diverticular mucosa partially lined by heterotopic gastric oxyntic mucosa (right) and partially by small intestine mucosa (left), hematoxylin-eosin stain, original magnification ×4.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Oral informed consent was obtained from the patient (and/or their legal guardian) for the publication of this case report and any accompanying images. The patient was informed about the nature and purpose of the publication and agreed to the use of anonymized clinical data for scientific and educational purposes.

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