Ileoileal Intussusceptions Caused by Eosinophilic Enteropathy

A 6-year-old patient presented with a 1-month history of diarrhea without blood and mucus, weight loss, and abdominal distension. Abdominal radiograph showed air-fluid levels; abdominal ultrasound detected multiple ileoileal intussusceptions (Fig. 1). Surgical reduction with no intestinal resection was performed. Abdominal pain and diarrhea persisted; fecal calprotectin level was elevated (355 mg/kg, normal < 50 mg/kg). Endoscopy showed diffuse mucosal inflammation and patchy aphthoid mucosal lesions in the proximal and distal ileum and colon (Fig. 2). Biopsies from the terminal ileum and colon showed massive eosinophilic infiltrate without architectural distortion (Fig. 3). The patient had no history of allergy or hypereosinophilia. Stools were negative for bacterial enteropathogens, ova, and parasites. Eosinophilic enteropathy was diagnosed, and the child was treated with oral budesonide. Symptoms and fecal calprotectin levels completely normalized in a few weeks.

Eosinophilic enteropathy is a rare disorder characterized by massive eosinophilic infiltration in the absence of other known causes of eosinophilia (1). Ileoileal intussusception is reported as a presenting sign, especially when muscular layers are involved (2–5). Mucosal infiltration results in vomiting, diarrhea, and pain; serosal involvement, when present, causes ascites and peripheral eosinophilia. Diagnosis is based on histology. Corticosteroids are the accepted primary treatment at present (2).

Submitted by: 
1 Matteo Bramuzzo, 1 Stefano Martelossi, 1 Vincenzo Villanacci, 1 Massimo Maschio, 1 Stefano Costa, and 1 Alessandro Ventura

1 University of Trieste, 1 Institute for Maternal and Child Health—IRCCS “Burlo Garofolo”, Trieste, 1 Department of Pathology, Spedali Civili, Brescia, and 
2 Pediatric Gastroenterology and Cystic Fibrosis Unit, University Hospital “G.Martino”, Messina, Italy.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr Matteo Bramuzzo, MD, University of Trieste, Via dell’Istria 65/1, 34148 Trieste, Italy (e-mail: bramuzzo.m@gmail.com).

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REFERENCES

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FIGURE 1. Abdominal ultrasound: target appearance in transverse section of 2 ileoileal intussusceptions.

FIGURE 2. Videoendoscopy: patchy aphthoid lesion surrounded by hyperemia of the ileal mucosa.

FIGURE 3. (A) Terminal ileum histology: normal architecture of the villi with diffuse eosinophilic infiltration (H&E, original magnification ×10). (B) Terminal ileum histology: eosinophilic infiltration of the mucosa (H&E, original magnification ×100). (C) Colonic histology: normal architecture of the crypts with diffuse eosinophilic infiltration (H&E, original magnification ×40). (D) Colonic histology: eosinophilic infiltration of the mucosa (H&E, original magnification ×100).