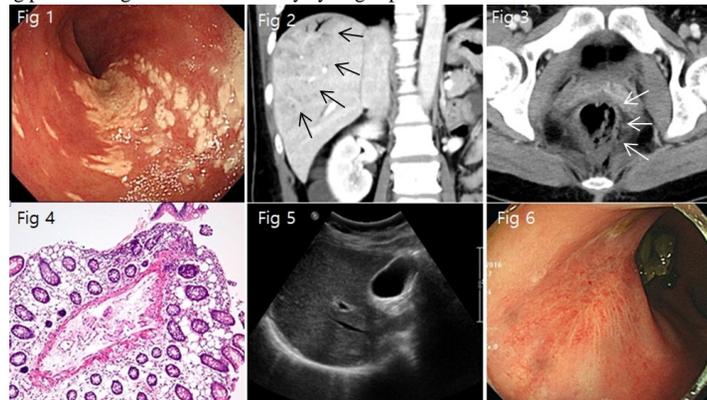


Portal vein gas emboli after Colonoscopy: Hydrogen peroxide related colitis

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Eun-yong Shin, Ho suk Kang Department of Medicine, Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital, Hallym University College of Medicine, Anyang During a colonoscopy screening of a 49-year-old woman, diffuse whitening of the mucosa with tiny frothy bubbles (the "snow white sign") appeared instantaneously in areas of the rectal mucosa and were washed with water through the endoscopic working channel (Fig 1.). She remained asymptomatic after the colonoscopy, and next underwent an abdomen pelvis CT for a health check-up. Gases along the peripheral branches of the right portal vein with geographically decreased hepatic parenchymal perfusion at the right hemi-liver (Fig 2.) and focal subserosal air bubbles in the lower rectum (Fig 3.) were found on the CT. An endoscopic biopsy of the rectal lesion showed empty spaces irregularly distributed between the glands in the muscularis propria (pseudolipomatosis, Fig 4.). Therefore, we suggested that hydrogen peroxide disinfectant remaining in the endoscope caused the rectal pseudolipomatosis and portal vein emboli. The patient was admitted immediately, and treated with an O2 supplement 6L/min nasally with left lateral decubitus positioning. The next day after a colonoscopy, we confirmed the disappearance of the portal vein emboli through abdominal ultrasound (Fig 5.) and discharged the asymptomatic patient. After three weeks, a sigmoidoscopy showed the rectal mucosa recovered with a scar (Fig 6.). Hydrogen peroxide rarely causes colitis when used as an endoscopic disinfectant. It has also been reported that portal vein gas is produced when it is ingested accidentally. However, as far as we know, this is the first case involving portal vein gas emboli induced by hydrogen peroxide related colitis.



A Rapid-growing Sarcomatoid Carcinoma in Small Intestine

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