

Images in gastroenterology

Unusual cause of gastrointestinal bleeding: Jejunal diverticula

Sunil Raviraj Kothakota^{a,*}, Madhu Sasidharan^a, Tu Shabeerali^b, Harish Kareem^a,
Ajith Kumar Nair^a

^a Department of Gastroenterology, KIMS Hospital, Trivandrum, Kerala 695029, India

^b Department of Surgical Gastroenterology & Liver Transplant Division, KIMS Hospital, Trivandrum, Kerala 695029, India



71-Year-old man with background of diabetes mellitus, hypertension and coronary artery disease (on dual-antiplatelets), presented with one day history of melena. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy was normal. Colonoscopy showed fresh blood in colon and terminal ileum, with no evidence of source. Computerized tomographic angiogram demonstrated active bleeding from diverticula in proximal-small bowel (Fig. 1A), but could not achieve angio-embolization as the conventional angiogram failed to localize the bleeding vessel. Despite all supportive measures including blood products, bleeding continued and needed inotropes to maintain blood-pressure, hence decided to proceed with surgical intervention. Laparoscopic intervention was performed and intraoperatively multiple diverticula along mesenteric border of proximal-jejunum starting 15 cm from duodenojejunal flexure for a length of 30 cm seen (Fig. 1B). Segmental resection of diverticula containing proximal jejunum (Fig. 1C and D) followed by end to end anastomosis done. Post-procedure patient improved well and discharged

in stable condition. At present he is continuing on single-antiplatelet and had no more bleeding episodes.

The small bowel is called 'the dark continent of the GI tract' because of its inaccessibility to endoscopists, due to its intra-peritoneal location, excess mobility and long length [1]. In elderly-age group most common cause of small bowel bleeding is abnormal blood vessels (i.e. arterio-venous malformations, angiodysplasia, etc.) apart from benign or malignant mass lesions [2,3]. Diverticula are common source of colonic bleeding, but it is very rare in small-intestine [4]. Very few cases of small bowel diverticular bleed were reported in literature [5].

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: ksrdnb@gmail.com (S.R. Kothakota).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajg.2022.07.002>

Received 2 May 2020; Accepted 1 July 2022

Available online 5 November 2022

1687-1979/© 2022 Pan-Arab Association of Gastroenterology. Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

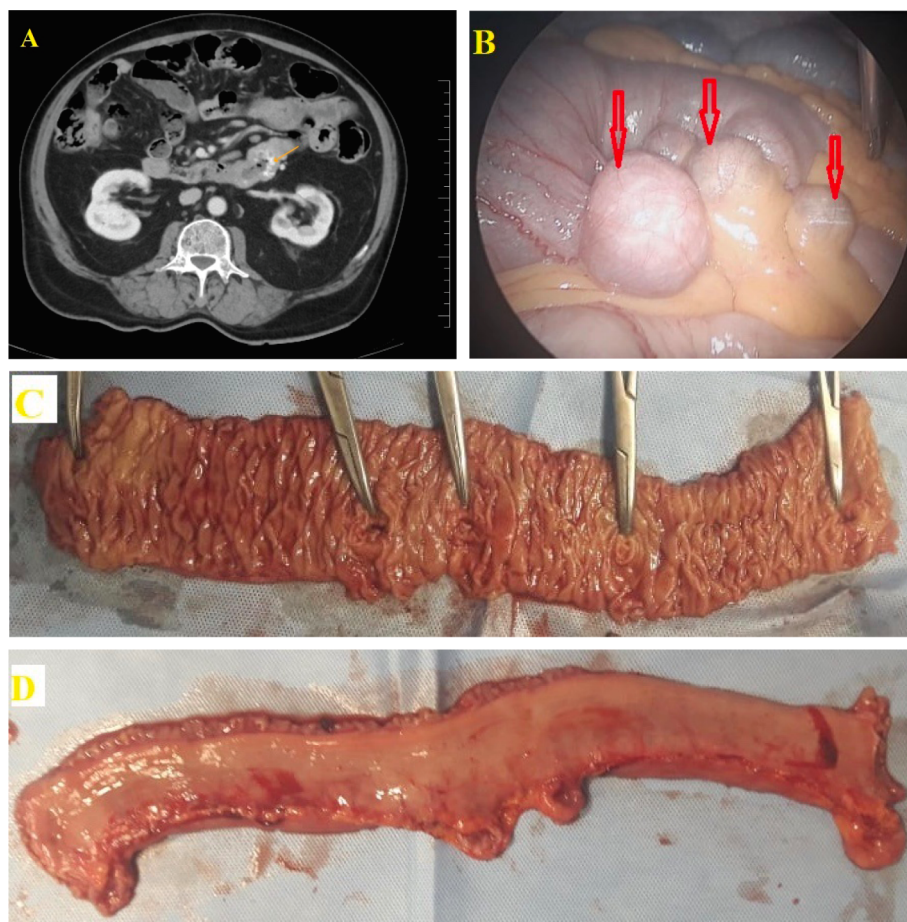


Fig. 1. (A) CT abdomen angiogram showing active bleeding from jejunal diverticuli; (B) Intraoperative view of jejunal diverticuli; (C) & (D) - Resected jejunal segment with diverticuli.

References

- [1] Gunjan D, Sharma V, Rana SS, Bhasin DK. Small bowel bleeding: a comprehensive review. *Gastroenterol Rep (Oxf)* 2014;2(4):262–75.
- [2] Raju GS, Gerson L, Das A, Lewis B. American gastroenterological association (AGA) institute technical review on obscure gastro-intestinal bleeding. *Gastroenterology* 2007;133(5):1697–717.
- [3] Kuo JR, Pasha SF, Leighton JA. The Clinician's Guide to Suspected Small Bowel Bleeding. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2019;114(4):591–8.
- [4] Transue DL, Hanna TN, Shekhani H, Rohatgi S, Khosa F, Johnson J-O. Small bowel diverticulitis: an imaging review of an uncommon entity. *Emerg Radiol* 2017;24(2):195–205.
- [5] Zhao L, Lu W, Sun Y, Liang J, Feng S, Shi Y, et al. Small intestinal diverticulum with bleeding: case report and literature review. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2018;97(9):e9871.