

Meckel's diverticulum diagnosed by double-balloon enteroscopy

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A 17-year-old man presented with a 5-days' history of melena. His past and family histories were noncontributory. On admission, physical examination revealed pallor and severe hypotension (84/42 mmHg), but no abdominal signs. Hematologic analysis on admission showed a red blood cell count of $101 \times 10^4 / \text{mm}^3$, hemoglobin of 2.9 g/dl and hematocrit of 9.2%. Upper GI endoscopy demonstrated no bleeding. Colonoscopy revealed blood clots but no source of bleeding. Angiography, radiolabeled red cell scintigraphy, and technetium 99m pertechnetate scintigraphy also failed to detect the source of bleeding. Thirteen days after admission, retrograde double-balloon enteroscopy revealed a large diverticulum in the distal part of the ileum and a small ulcer was identified within the diverticulum (Fig.1A, B). Barium contrast radiography of the small intestine also revealed the ileal diverticulum, measuring 10 cm (Fig.2). A presumptive diagnosis of Meckel's diverticulum was made, and the patient accordingly underwent laparoscopy. A Meckel's diverticulum measuring 10 cm in diameter was found approximately 70 cm proximal to the ileocecal junction (Fig. 3), and this was resected laparoscopically. Macroscopically, an ulcer scar was identified in the diverticulum (Fig. 4). Histological examination showed ectopic gastric mucosa surrounding the ulcer scar (Fig 5). The postoperative course was uneventful and the patient remains in complete remission six months after resection.

Meckel's diverticulum is the most common congenital anomaly of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, with an autopsy incidence of 0.3% to 4% [1, 2]. The diverticulum is usually situated 40-130 cm from the ileocecal junction and is therefore difficult to detect endoscopically before surgery [3]. However, double-balloon enteroscopy, developed by Yamamoto *et al.*, enables examination of the entire small intestine [4]. Using this procedure, we could visualize Meckel's diverticulum of the ileum. To our knowledge, this is the third report of the Meckel's diverticulum preoperatively diagnosed by double-balloon enteroscopy.

References

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