

Small Bowel Involvement of Microscopic Polyangiitis Presenting as a Massive Gastrointestinal Haemorrhage

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ABSTRACT

Microscopic polyangiitis is an Anti-Neutrophilic Cytoplasmic Antibody (ANCA) vasculitis disorder, mainly affecting the kidneys and respiratory tract, but also having the capacity to affect other organ systems, including the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. This is a case of microscopic polyangiitis presenting with massive life-threatening GI haemorrhage, with the bleeding source originating in the small intestine, and improving dramatically with immunosuppression. Massive GI haemorrhage is an unusual presentation of such cases, with involvement usually being with abdominal pain, obstruction, or evidence of ischaemia. Such patients usually present a diagnostic dilemma and require urgent treatment not only of the bleed itself, but of the underlying vasculitic process, as the condition can be life-threatening.

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