

Answers to Medical Quiz

- A1. Colonoscopic photo: showing multiple polyps of different sizes, sessile and pedunculated at the recto-sigmoid junction.
- A2. The differential diagnosis includes all the possible causes of colonic polyps ranging from inflammatory to benign to malignant.
- A3. The diagnosis was Bilharzial polyps, established by the result of histopathologic examination of the endoscopic biopsies.

DISCUSSION

Bilharziasis, also known as Schistosomiasis, is an infection caused by trematodes of the genus *Schistosoma*. Three schistosomal species cause most human infections, namely: *S. japonica*, *S. haematobium*, and *S. mansoni*. Intestinal schistosomiasis classically associates with *S. mansoni*, which is endemic in Africa, central and south American countries, and in the Middle East¹.

Patients may present with intussusception, mass lesions, or stricture leading to obstruction. Mass lesions or polyp formation varies in different countries; there may be multiple granulomatous polyps, usually 1-2 cm in diameter, especially in the rectum, sigmoid and descending colon.

Schistosomiasis is readily treated using a single oral megadose of Praziquintel².

REFERENCES

- 1- Mourra N, Lesurtel M, Paye F, et al. Chronic schistosomiasis: an incidental finding in sigmoid volvulus. *Journal of Clinical Pathology* 2006;59:111.
- 2- Stephenson I, Wiselka M. Drug treatment of tropical parasitic infections: recent achievements and developments. *Drugs*. 2000; 60 (5): 985-95.

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