

Ulcerative colitis in young children, A Case report

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Abstract

Ulcerative colitis is one type of the inflammatory bowel diseases that affect the rectum and the colon. The usual age of presentation is at adolescence and adulthood. It is rarely seen during infancy and in young children. Our case, Mohammed, was presented at the age of 18 months with persistent bloody diarrhea that did not respond to the usual antibiotic and antiparasitic drugs. All the investigations that were done during the period of the illness (more than 9 months) were non

conclusive. Then colonoscopy were done which revealed the picture of ulcerative colitis. The patient then was put on oral steroid and salazopyrine with dramatic improvement in the general condition and disappearance of bloody diarrhea. Now the patient is on salazopyrine orally with steroid only in exacerbations.

IRAQI J MED SCI, 2008; VOL.6 (2):121-123

Introduction

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a group of idiopathic, chronic disorders that includes Crohn disease and ulcerative colitis. The cause is poorly understood, and the natural course is characterized by unpredictable exacerbations and remissions ⁽¹⁾. The most common time of onset of IBD is during adolescence and young adulthood. A bimodal distribution has been shown with an early onset at 15-25 yr of age and a second smaller peak at 50-80 yr of age. IBD is often reported to be more common in urban areas than in rural areas. In developed countries, these disorders are the major causes of chronic intestinal inflammation in children beyond the first few years of life ⁽²⁾.

Ulcerative Colitis

Ulcerative colitis is a disease that causes inflammation and sores, called ulcers, in the lining of the large intestine. The inflammation usually occurs in the rectum and lower part of the colon, but it may affect the entire colon. Ulcerative colitis rarely affects the small intestine except for the end section, called the terminal ileum ⁽³⁾. Ulcerative colitis may also be called colitis or proctitis. Ulcerative colitis has been noted to present in infancy, although this is very unusual. One needs to be cautious when evaluating reports of ulcerative colitis in infancy because dietary protein intolerance may be easily misdiagnosed as ulcerative colitis in this age group ⁽⁴⁾.

Patient and Result

Mohammad Waly Shihab is a 3 years old boy presented at the age of 1.5 year with persistent bloody diarrhea, admitted to the Department of pediatric, Tikrit Teaching Hospital, which did not respond to both metronidazole and diloxanide furate. The diarrhea comes in attacks and sometimes the patient passed fresh blood per rectum.

There were no other clinical symptoms and signs other than low

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Received: 1st October 2007, Accepted: 30th April 2008.