

**Title:**

**Atypical lymphogranuloma venereum mimicking an anorectal neoplasm**

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SEPO

<b>Editorial</b> Colitis diverticular bleeding. Have we identified the risk factors for massive bleeding yet? J. W. Bercian Valencia	<b>Lesión de Bonhoeffer: diagnóstico por gastroscopia</b> R. Ferrero Guesá, N. N. Barco Irujo, M. Pal Noya y J. E. Domínguez Muñoz	65
<b>Trabajos Originales</b> Risk factors for severity and recurrence of colitis diverticular bleeding N. Aragón, P. Caballero, A. Arduini, M. Escobar and N. Guzmán	<b>Notas Clínicas</b> Cefas crisis in adults: a case report and review of the literature focusing on the presentation of sublingual nodules M. de Alaveda-Nemón, V. L. Echeburu-Caballero and S. Latorre	67
Microsporidiosis and inflammatory bowel disease: the other diagnosis? J. Bermejo, A. Rojas, V. López-Castejón, J. Cuervo, M. Acuña-Ramos, M. Hernández-Serra, C. García, M. de la Cruz, D. Barrio and A. López-García	Herangopercutánea peritonea. Una localización infrecuente de tumor metastásico I. Alonso Abad, J. M. García-Cerón, L. Aguirre-Díaz, A. M. Quintana Bovea y A. Colla-Morales	69
Influence of sustained 48h response on the regression of fibrosis and portal hypertension in cirrhotic HCV patients treated with antiviral therapy A. Rentería, J. Caballero, M. J. López-Alaiz, I. López, M. T. Arán, A. Galván, F. Castiella, E. Fabrega and J. Crespo	Hemólisis por eritropoiesis suprarrenal intracerebral C. Pérez-Carpas, A. Escobedo-Sánchez, M. A. Paredes-Capó, J. Arangul-Arribas y C. García-Delgado	70
Malnutrition risk questionnaire combined with body composition measurement in malnutrition screening in inflammatory bowel disease A. A. Cortés, A. Muñoz, Z. Pilo, I. Pall and P. Malvar	Endoscopia: removal of intubated large varicose gastric: a case report M. Ochoaizabal and J. Sainza-Muñoz	73
A survey-based analysis of endoscopic quality indicators compliance among Spanish endoscopists I. Fernández-Cruz, F. Argüelles, P. Alonso, J. Salas and B. Soriano	Mesenteric schistosomiasis: an unusual cause of abdominal mass A. Tapia-Palacio, M. R. Ramos-Vázquez, J. C. Cordero-Ramos, J. Cordero-Lafont and D. L. Carballo-Pérez	76
<b>Revisión</b> Endoscopic resection of colorectal polyps in patients on antiplatelet therapy: an evidence-based guideline for clinicians G. Piana, M. Sostero-Salín, C. Salinas, F. Day and M. J. Cuatrecasas	<b>Cartas al Editor</b> Neoplasia neuroendocrina intestinal, un tumor poco habitual M. de Barco Noya, J. Santos-Fernández y M. N. Ramos Rodríguez	79
<b>Indicadores en Patología Digestiva</b> Neutrofilos de la arteria mesenterica superior: una causa infrecuente de obstrucción intestinal J. Sempere Jaque, P. Albaladejo-Serra y J. C. García-Pérez	Presentación intestinal de tuberculosis por adenocáncer previo gastrectomizado a cambio de Barrett, patología infrecuente y poco conocida Y. Pineda-Vargas, D. M. Aguirre y L. A. Alvarez	80
Neumatosis cística intestinal A. F. Romero-Muñoz y K. Barrio-Zelga	Perforación múltiple de divertículos de intestino delgado en paciente con síndrome de Ulceras Duodenales R. Fernández-Cruz, A. Burgos-Castaño y E. Palencia López	83
Síndrome de Miller a cinco años de diagnóstico C. Ochoa-Sandoval, C. C. Hernández-Segura, J. Pineda-Rodríguez y A. N. González-Fernández	Altopercia anular como manifestación paraneoplásica de un adenocarcinoma gástrico J. J. Barrio-Ochoa, F. Fernández-Serrano y J. de la Fuente-Aguado	83
Endoscopic retrieval of trichobezoars in a schizophrenic patient J. L. Bermejo-Hernández, M. E. Torres-Castro and M. Torres-Rodríguez	<b>Revisores 2016</b>	85
All that glitters is not gold. A different cause for an "obscure colitis" A. Pineda, M. Sainza, I. Villaverde and G. Navarro		

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**Atypical lymphogranuloma venereum mimicking an anorectal neoplasm**

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Dear Editor,

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LV) is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis* (1) that has nonspecific manifestations, which usually delays diagnosis and treatment (2).

**Case report**

A 40-year-old homosexual male presented due to bowel habit changes, rectorrhagia and weight loss. He had a family history of colorectal cancer, his father was diagnosed with rectal cancer at age 54. No suspicious genital or perineal lesions were found during the physical examination and the digital rectal exam identified an ulcerated, friable mass in the anal canal.

An abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan was performed, which showed a neoplasm-like hyperdense area in the rectum-anus in association with multiple lumen-narrowing adenopathies with peripheral rim enhancement in the perirectal space. There was also evidence of rectosigmoid mesocolon infiltration. Colonoscopy revealed an ulcerated, anfractuous lesion with raised borders that was consistent with a malignancy in the anal canal. There were two extrinsic compressive nodules in the rectum with an unscathed mucosal surface (Fig. 1). A nodular lesion 10 cm away from the anal margin was identified via rectoscopy, with raised borders and a central depression. These lesions and a crater-like ulceration were biopsied. An ultrafast polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test was performed for the detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* in biopsy samples. The

results were positive and doxycycline at 100 mg was prescribed every 12 hours for 21 days, which resolved the clinical presentation. Both biopsy samples showed lymphoid tissue and no evidence of malignancy.

### Discussion

LV is an STD that may present with atypical clinical manifestations. A differential diagnosis should include tumors and inflammatory conditions. LV requires both a clinical and endoscopic diagnosis for early treatment and must be included in the differential diagnosis for individuals with associated risk factors (3).

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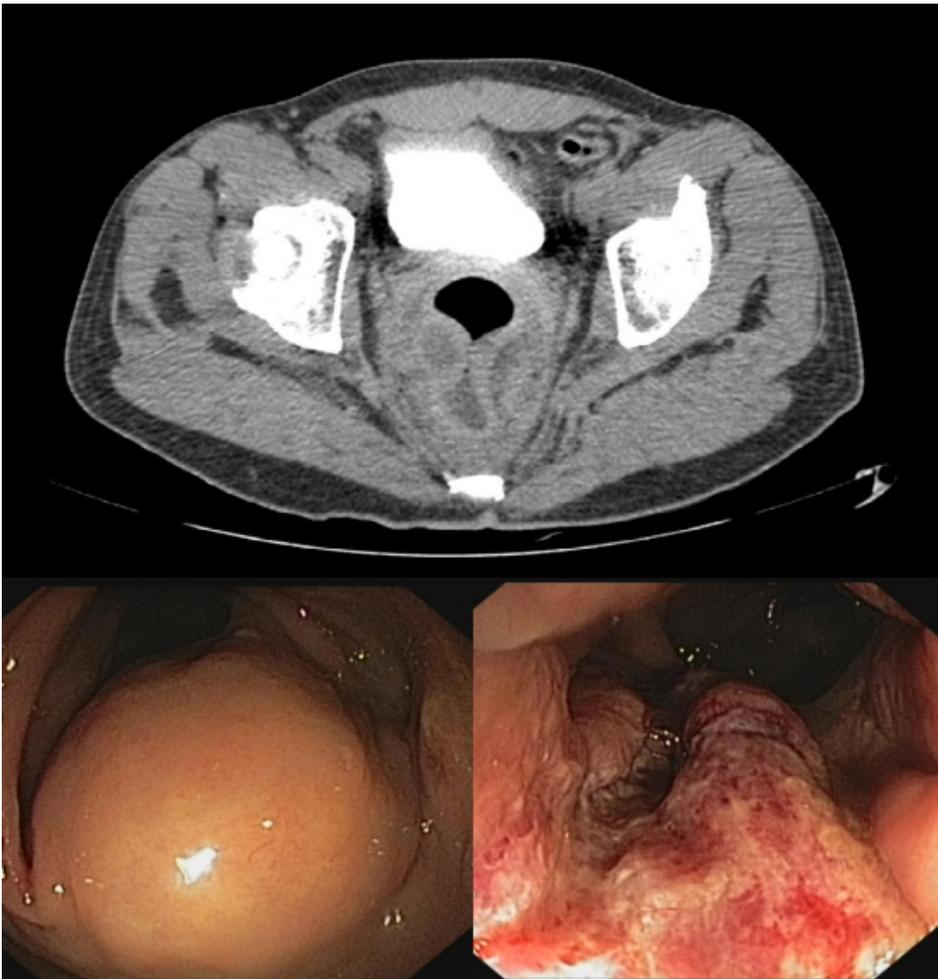


Fig. 1. A. Computerized tomography showing a hyper-dense area in the rectal-anal region that is consistent with a neoplasm with multiple perirectal space and lumen-narrowing adenopathies with peripheral enhancement. B. An endoscopic image of nodular lesions that result in extrinsic compression and unscathed mucosa. C. An endoscopic image of an ulcerated, anfractuous lesion in the anal canal.