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## Gastric heterotopia in the rectum: a rare entity with potential pitfalls

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*Conflict of interest: the authors declare no conflict of interest.*

Gastric heterotopia (GHT) is a medical condition where the gastric mucosa is found at a non-physiological part of the body. GHT can present as a polyp, ulcer or diverticulum and can be found anywhere in the gastrointestinal tract from the mouth to the anorectal area, as well as in the hepatobiliary system. However, it is relatively rare to find GHT in the rectum, with only around 50 documented cases reported in the medical literature, to the best of our knowledge (1,2).

### CASE REPORT

We present the case of a 51-year-old male who underwent average-risk screening colonoscopy. He had no clinically significant comorbidities and was otherwise asymptomatic, with no family history. Notable findings included a pseudopolypoid lesion in the distal rectum, adjacent to the dentate line, measuring approximately 15

mm with regular-appearing mucosa under narrow-band-imaging (Fig. 1A and B). Biopsy specimens showed histological characteristics of oxyntic-type gastric mucosa without inflammation or dysplasia, as seen with hematoxylin and eosin staining (Fig. 2).

## DISCUSSION

GHT has the potential to progress to malignancy, although the rate of malignancy is currently unknown (3). Given its frequency and the fact that it is often misdiagnosed as a floater or contamination, it is important to be aware of this entity.

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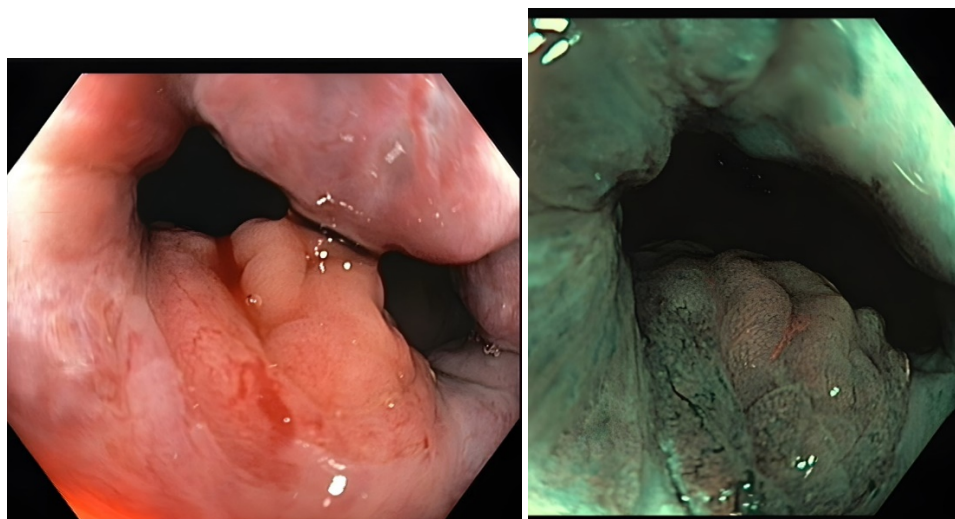


Fig. 1. A. Pseudopolypoid lesion in the distal rectum, adjacent to the dentate line, measuring approximately 15 mm. B. Regular appearing mucosa under narrow-band-imaging.

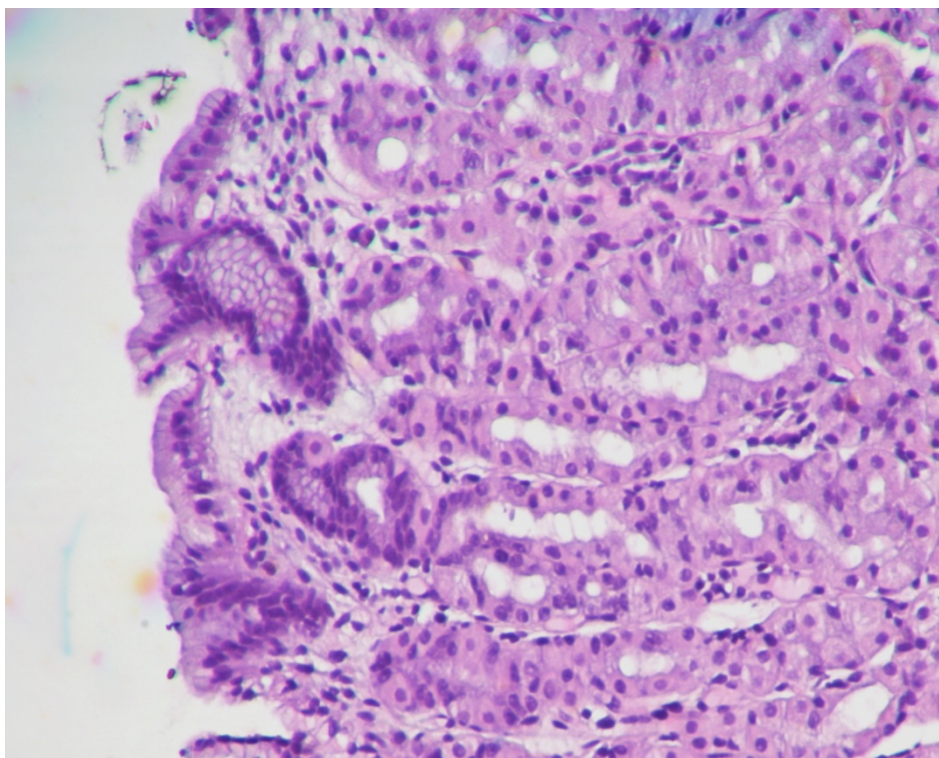


Fig. 2. Biopsy specimens showed histological characteristics of oxyntic-type gastric mucosa without inflammation or dysplasia, as seen with hematoxylin and eosin staining.