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An unusual cause of gastrointestinal bleeding: adult mixed-type Henoch-Schönlein purpura

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CASE REPORT

A 25-year-old male presented with a three-day history of abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea and bloody stools. The contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) examination of the abdomen detected thickening and edema of the intestinal canal wall (Fig. 1A). The complete colonoscopy showed hyperemia, dropsy and erosion in

the sigmoid colon and rectum (Fig. 1B). The biopsies revealed obvious bleeding points in the mucosa (Fig. 1C). Subsequently, wireless capsule endoscopy (OMOM® JS-ME-I) was carried out, which showed multiple lesions in the entire small intestine with diffused hyperemia, dropsy and erosion, even multiple and large ulcers (Fig. 1D). Subsequently, symmetrical scattered purpura distributed over the extensor surfaces of the lower limbs were observed (Fig. 1E). Hence, a firm diagnosis of adult mixed-type Henoch-Schönlein purpura (HSP) was made. The patient recovered with the use of methylprednisolone. The patient remained well during follow-up.

DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, adult mixed-type HSP is an unusual condition in the clinic. Moreover, to date, there are few reported cases of such a severe endoscopic appearance that presents with multiple ulcers in the small intestine in a patient with HSP. The combined application of abdominal contrast-enhanced CT and capsule endoscopy may be a promising method for the diagnosis of adult mixed-type HSP in the early stage.

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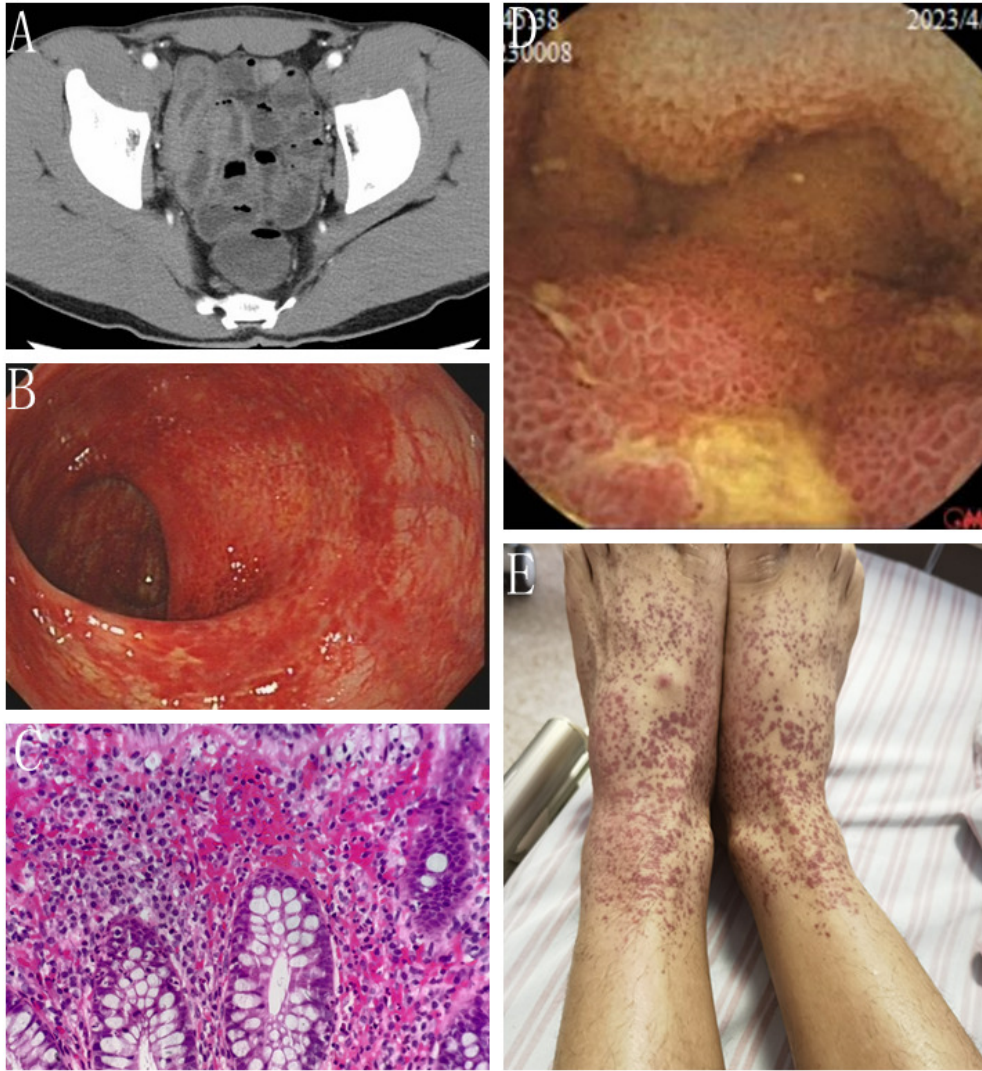


Fig. 1. Adult mixed-type Henoch-Schönlein purpura. A. Abdominal contrast-enhanced computed tomography showed thickening and edema of the intestinal canal wall. B. The colonoscopy showed hyperemia, drosy and erosion in rectum. C. The biopsies showed obvious bleeding points in the mucosa (H&E, $\times 400$). D. The capsule endoscopy showed diffused hyperemia, drosy and erosion, even multiple and large ulcers in the small intestine. E. Before therapy, symmetrical scattered purpura distributed over the extensor surfaces of the lower limbs.