

Cavernous haemangioma of the rectum

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A 67-year-old man presented with a 30-year history of recurrent rectal bleeding. A lesion was seen on abdominal computed tomography which showed circumferential transmural thickening of the involved rectal segment

Abdominal magnetic resonance imaging showed a thickened rectal wall and marked heterogeneous hyperintensity on T2W images of the extramural component, and high signal intensity in the perirectal fat for serpiginous structures that correlated with small vessels and their calcifications.

Given its mass-like appearance and the recurrent rectal bleeding, biopsy was not performed. The diagnosis of cavernous haemangioma of the rectum was verified radiologically.

Cavernous haemangioma of the rectum is a rare benign vascular lesion which mainly affects young adults and usually presents with chronic rectal bleeding (Wang et al, 2010; Zhang and Wu, 2021). The most common affected site is the rectosigmoid colon (50–70%). Patients usually report a long history of recurrent painless rectal bleeding. This condition may rarely cause intestinal obstruction, ulceration or perforation (Wang and Gao, 2016).

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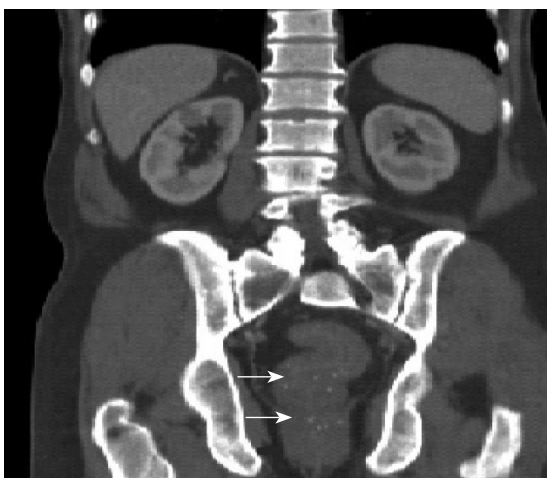


Figure 1. Coronal computed tomography findings of rectal haemangioma: diffuse and circumferential rectal wall thickening with multiple calcifications inside (arrows), representing phleboliths.

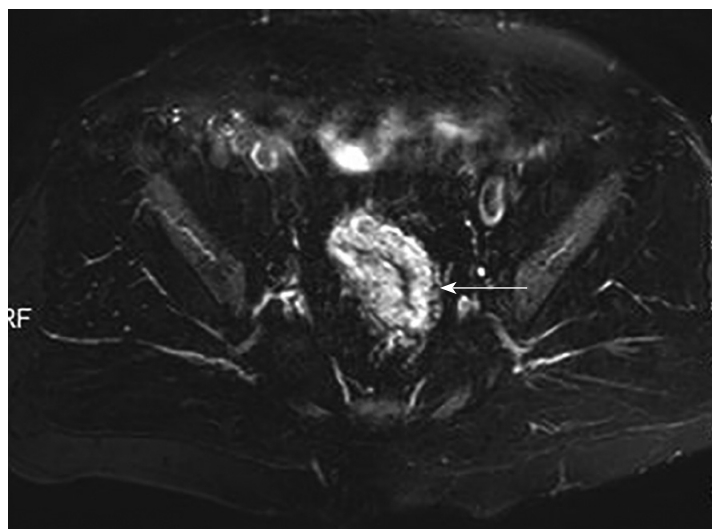


Figure 2. T2 weighted-fat saturated magnetic resonance image showing the hyperintense haemangioma (arrow).