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*Research Article*

# **Intestinal Amyloidosis Complicated with Hemorrhage and Intestinal Pseudo-Obstruction**

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## **Abstract**

This is a case of A 54 year old Hispanic male with recurrent episodes of partial bowel obstruction. In upper endoscopy, a hemorrhagic duodenitis was found with active bleeding by a visible vessel that was stopped after combined endoscopic therapy. An endoscopic control showed severe duodenitis, and biopsy revealed hyaline deposits in the walls of blood vessels and extravascular area positive for Congo red staining.

**Keywords:** Amyloidosis; Intestinal pseudo-obstruction; Gastrointestinal bleeding.

## **Introduction**

Amyloidosis is a rare disease. We presented a case of an idiopathic isolated intestinal amyloidosis without extraintestinal manifestations that caused episodes of intestinal pseudo-obstruction and a severe duodenitis with gastrointestinal bleeding. The diagnosis was supported by pathologic findings.

## **Case Report**

We presented a case of A 54 year old Hispanic male with recurrent episodes of abdominal distension and up to three previous hospitalizations with a diagnosis of partial bowel obstruction that resolved with conservative management. The physical examination revealed overweight (BMI= 28 Kg/m<sup>2</sup>). A

colonoscopy was performed with the discovery of three hyperplastic polyps, and barium small bowel radiographic studies showed folds thickening of jejunal and ileal loops (Fig. A).

**Please see figure A in PDF version**

In upper endoscopy, a hemorrhagic duodenitis was found with active bleeding by a visible vessel that was stopped after combined endoscopic therapy (Fig. B and C).

**Please see figure B in PDF version**

**Please see figure C in PDF version**

The blood cell count was normal, and celiac serological tests were negative. After a month, there was an endoscopic control with evidence of severe duodenitis, and biopsy revealed hyaline deposits in the walls of blood vessels and extravascular area positive for Congo red staining with birefringence under polarized light (Fig. D and E).

Laboratory tests and images were completed without finding secondary etiology of amyloidosis or other organ involvement. Currently, the patient is maintained with prokinetic agents that may benefit dysmotility-related symptoms. He has not had a recurrence of intestinal pseudo-obstruction.



**Please see figure D in PDF version**

**Please see figure E in PDF version**

## **Discussion**

Amyloidosis is a rare disease that is caused by an abnormal extracellular deposition of fibrillar protein with typical pathologic properties, and it could be systemic or localized to a single organ, such as the gastrointestinal tract. Primary amyloidosis (monoclonal immunoglobulin light chains) is the most common form of amyloidosis with amyloid deposition in the muscularis mucosae, submucosa, and muscularis propria leading to the thickening of intestinal folds, and it usually presents with constipation, mechanical obstruction, or chronic

intestinal pseudo-obstruction like this case. Whereas, secondary amyloidosis (serum acute phase-reactant, amyloid A protein) has been related to fine granular appearance and mucosal friability with erosions, because deposition occurs mainly in the propria mucosae with symptoms of diarrhea. There are no pathognomonic radiologic or endoscopic findings, and diagnosis could be delayed. Therefore, intestinal amyloidosis should be considered among differential diagnoses of severe duodenitis with complications. Only a few reports of hemorrhagic intestinal amyloidosis have been published.

This case was a localized intestinal amyloidosis without evidence of systemic disease or an associated plasma cell dyscrasia. Histologic analysis showed no significant pathological changes in the duodenal mucosa, but the presence of amyloid deposits in

additional cuts in the submucosa. Although we did not identify the type of amyloid, patients with these clinicopathological features correspond to primary amyloidosis and should be treated symptomatically, because the rate of progression is low and they have excellent survival without systemic therapy. The treatment of primary amyloidosis includes myeloma-type chemotherapy with variable outcomes; whereas in secondary amyloidosis, it includes control of the primary disease. Gastrointestinal tract surgery should be performed only if the benefits clearly outweigh the risks. Herein, we presented an infrequent case of intestinal amyloidosis with an impact on the quality of life.

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