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EDITOR'S QUIZ: GI SNAPSHOT

Inflammatory bowel disease—be aware of the mimics

Robin Spiller, *Editor*

Clinical presentation

A 43 year old male nurse practitioner with a strong family history of colon cancer presented with bloody diarrhoea. Stool cultures were negative and routine blood tests were within the normal range. On colonoscopy the rectum appeared swollen and aphthous ulcers (fig 1) with pus on them and floating around (fig 2) were detected. In the remainder of the colon some small ulcers without pus were present and haemorrhagic inflammation (fig 3). Biopsies of the rectal and colonic lesions were taken. Histology was suggestive of chronic inflammatory bowel disease. However, the endoscopist doubted the diagnosis.

Question

What is the differential diagnosis? What further test would you perform to obtain the diagnosis?

See page 341 for answer

This case is submitted by:

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Figure 2 Aphthous-like ulcerations in the distal sigmoid with pus floating around.

Figure 1 Endoscopic image of the rectal mucosa shows multiple deep aphthous-like ulcerations, as can be seen in Crohn's disease.

Figure 3 Apart from the ulcers, haemorrhagic inflammation was visualised, as can be seen in ulcerative colitis.