Dear Editor,

Actinomycosis is an uncommon granulomatous infection by Gram-positive anaerobic bacteria of the genus *Actinomyces*. *A. israelii* is a major human pathogen (1).

The most frequent locations for colonization are cervicofacial (50%), abdominal (20%) and thoracic (15-20%). The abdominal actinomycosis predisposing factors include recent surgery, trauma and neoplasias. Certain cases have been associated with the intrauterine contraception device (IUD) (2,3).

**Case report**

A 42-year old woman with an IUD was admitted due to colic pain, diarrhea without pathological products and abdominal distension of two months duration. The physical examination showed a slightly distended and tympanized abdomen. The blood analysis was unremarkable and co-cultures were negative. On colonoscopy, an extrinsic compression at 20 cm from the anal margin prevented progression. Afterwards, the patient presented abdominal pain with peritonism and was diagnosed with a pelvic tumor of 3 x 2.3 cm by computed tomography (CT) scan, suggestive of a teratoma dependent on the left ovary and perforation in the cecum. The patient underwent surgery and a stony tumor mass that infiltrated the retroperitoneum, uterus and both ovaries was resected. Ileocecal resection with ileocolic anastomosis and provisional colostomy was performed as well as removal of the IUD. A pathological anatomy study found *Actinomyces* on the IUD and in the resected tumor; there was no histological malignancy. After completing antibiotic treatment the patient remains asymptomatic.

**Discussion**

This is a very rare case of colonic subocclusion due to a pelvic mass, secondary to infection by *Actinomyces* caused by the IUD, with late diastatic perforation of the cecum.

Abdominal infection with *Actinomyces* is infrequent and has been previously associated with the use of an IUD. These cases may mimic neoplasia (3-5). The diagnosis is anatomopathological. Effective treatment consists of penicillin G 10-20 MU/24h in 4-6 daily doses for 4-6 weeks, followed by oral amoxicillin 2-4 g/24h for 6-12 months (2,5).
Manuel Alfonso Jiménez-Moreno¹, Isabel Sánchez-Pedrique² and Estíbaliz Obregón-Martínez¹

Departments of ¹Digestive Diseases, ²General Surgery and ³Pathology. Hospital Universitario de Burgos, Burgos, Spain

References


