Introduction

Fecaloma is a laminated mass of accumulated feces that is much harder in consistency than a fecal impaction. It is usually located in the sigmoid colon or rectum, but rarely in the cecum. Diagnosis is usually made from radiographic findings of a mobile intraluminal mass with a smooth outline and no mucosal attachment. Most of the fecalomas are successfully treated by conservative methods such as laxatives, enemas and rectal evacuation. When conservative treatments have failed, endoscopic procedures or surgical intervention may be needed. We report here that a cecal fecaloma caused by intestinal tuberculosis scar was successfully removed by endoscopic procedures.

Key Words: Fecaloma; Intestinal tuberculosis; Cecum; Endoscopic treatment

Case Report

A 30-year-old female presented with a 2-month history of intermittent pain and a palpable mass in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen. She had a history of chronic constipation with about 2 bowel movements per week and hard stools. Five years earlier, she had undergone an appendectomy. She was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis 9 months ago and was taking antituberculosis therapy. Her height was 163 cm and her weight was 49 kg. Physical examination revealed mild abdominal tenderness and a ping-pong ball-sized movable mass in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen. An abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan showed a 3.0-cm, round, laminated intraluminal mass with calcification in the cecum (Fig. 1A, B). Colonoscopy revealed fibrotic scar tissue probably due to intestinal tuberculosis in the ascending colon and a web-like stricture in the cecum around a patulous ileocecal valve. In a blind space which was formed by the stricture, a yellowish mass was found (Fig. 2). We could not insert a fiberoptic colonoscope into the cecum, and dilatation was thus performed using a thorough-the-scope balloon (CRE balloon; Boston Scientific Co., Marlborough, MA, USA) with a diameter of 12 to 15 mm on inflation (Fig. 3). After endoscopic balloon dilatation, the colonoscope was able to pass into the cecum, and a 3.0-cm, yellowish fecaloma was observed. We broke down the fecaloma with a polypectomy snare and grasping forceps.

Cecal Fecaloma Due to Intestinal Tuberculosis: Endoscopic Treatment

Sun Moon Kim, Ki Hyun Ryu, Young Suk Kim, Tae Hee Lee, Euyi Hyeog Im, Kyu Chan Huh, Young Woo Choi and Young Woo Kang
Department of Internal Medicine, Konyang University College of Medicine, Daejeon, Korea

Colorectal fecaloma is a mass of accumulated feces that is much harder in consistency than a fecal impaction. The rectosigmoid area is the common site for fecalomas and the cecum is the most unusual site. Diagnosis is usually made by distinctive radiographic findings of a mobile intraluminal mass with a smooth outline and no mucosal attachment. Most of the fecalomas are successfully treated by conservative methods such as laxatives, enemas and rectal evacuation. When conservative treatments have failed, endoscopic procedures or surgical intervention may be needed. We report here that a cecal fecaloma caused by intestinal tuberculosis scar was successfully removed by endoscopic procedures.

Key Words: Fecaloma; Intestinal tuberculosis; Cecum; Endoscopic treatment

Received: July 29, 2011 Revised: November 16, 2011
Accepted: December 29, 2011
Correspondence: Sun Moon Kim
Department of Internal Medicine, Konyang University College of Medicine, 158 Gwanjeodong-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-718, Korea
Tel: +82-42-600-9370, Fax: +82-42-600-9090, E-mail: silkim@hanmail.net
© This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
Kim SM et al.

**Discussion**

Although fecal impaction is a common condition, fecaloma is an extremely rare form of impaction that refers to an accumulation of fecal material which forms a mass separable from the rest of the bowel contents. Fecaloma is found most frequently in the rectum or sigmoid because stools in the left colon become firmer and colon diameter is smaller on the left side than on the right side. The cecum is an unusual site, and only 4 cases have been reported in the English literature. There are several causes of fecaloma, and they have been described in patients suffering with chronic constipation, Hirschsprung’s disease, Chagas’ disease, and psychiatric diseases. It is thought that our case of fecaloma developed due to chronic constipation and prolonged impaction of fecal material in a pouch which was formed by stricture. This is the first case of fecaloma that was associated with an intestinal tuberculosis scar.

Diagnosis of fecaloma is usually made radiologically from a characteristic intraluminal mass seen on plain X-rays, barium enema and abdominal CT. The mass has smooth margins, some mobility within the bowel lumen and no attachment to the mucosal surface.

Complications of fecaloma are obstruction, ulceration, bleeding and perforation of the colon as well as hydronephrosis. Treatments include laxatives, enemas, rectal evacuation, surgical intervention and endoscopic removal.
Cecal Fecaloma by Intestinal Tuberculosis

A case of fecaloma that was removed successfully by the endoscopic procedure and the first case of cecal fecaloma that was removed successfully by the endoscopic procedure with endoscopic balloon dilatation.

Conflicts of Interest
The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES
1. Garisto JD, Campillo L, Edwards E, Harbour M, Ermocilla R. Giant fecaloma in a 12-year-old boy: a case report. Cases J 2009;2:127.
2. Cid AA, Pietruk T, Budari CZ, Ehrinpreis MN. Cecal fecaloma mimicking colonic neoplasm. Dig Dis Sci 1981;26:1134-1137.
3. Gilbert RF. Cecal infarction secondary to a distal obstructing fecaloma: association with drug abuse. South Med J 1980;73:1296-1297.
4. Lasser A, Conte M, Solitare GB. Stercoraceous perforation of the cecum: report of two cases. Dis Colon Rectum 1975;18:410-412.
5. Kantarci M, Fil F. Education and imaging. Gastrointestinal: fecaloma in a dilated sigmoid colon. J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2007;22:955.
6. Sakai E, Inokuchi Y, Inamori M, et al. Rectal fecaloma: successful treatment using endoscopic removal. Digestion 2007;75:198.
7. Freud WI, Zikmund A, Stroud CS, Fries JW. Fecaloma: report of a case and review of the literature. Gastroenterology 1955;29:446-452.
8. Kim KH, Kim YS, Seo GS, Choi CS, Choi SC. A case of fecaloma resulting in the rectosigmoid megacolon. Korean J Neurogastroenterol Motil 2007;13:81-85.
9. Campbell JB, Robinson AE. Hirschsprung’s disease presenting as calcified fecaloma. Pediatr Radiol 1973;1:161-163.
10. Araki T, Miici C, Yoshida Y, Taniyama Y, Sakamoto N, Kusanoki M. Total proctocolectomy and ileal J-pouch anal anastomosis for chagasic megacolon with fecaloma: report of a case. Surg Today 2006;36:277-279.
11. Knoebel B, Rosman P, Gewurtz G. Bilateral hydroceles due to fecaloma in an elderly woman. J Clin Gastroenterol 2000;30:311-313.