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Acute Appendicitis Diagnosed Incidentally by Colonoscopy in Colorectal Cancer Screening

Kolorektal Kanser Taramasında Kolonoskopi ile Insidental Olarak Tanı Konulan Akut Apandisit

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A 52-year-old woman was referred to our hospital for colorectal cancer screening. She had no complaints and history of any diseases or medications. Physical examination was normal and laboratory findings were within normal limits. Colonoscopy revealed an appendiceal orifice with intraluminal bulging and mucosal erythema as well as minor purulent discharge (Figure 1). Abdominal computed tomography (CT) showed a large tumefied appendix compatible with appendicitis. These findings were strongly suggestive of appendicitis. Therefore, the case was referred to surgery and patient underwent an uneventful appendectomy. Histopathological examination finally definited the existence of phlegmonous acute appendicitis with involvement of the appendix base.

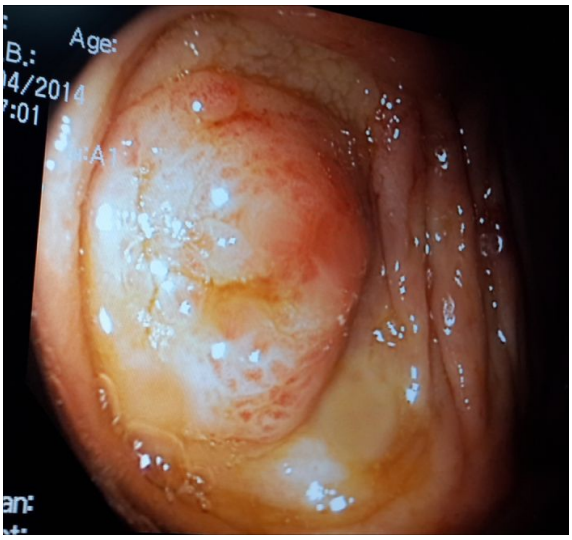


Figure 1. Colonoscopy revealed an appendiceal orifice with intraluminal bulging and mucosal erythema as well as minor purulent discharge

The clinical role of colonoscopic screening in the diagnosis of colorectal cancer has already been emphasized. However, several reports have lately addressed the colonoscopic diagnosis of acute appendicitis (1-3). We report an asymptomatic patient with no abnormal clinical and laboratory findings that diagnosed as acute appendicitis during colonoscopic screening. In conclusion, colorectal screening is useful and important not only in the diagnosis of colorectal cancer but also in the diagnosis of other colorectal diseases such as acute appendicitis.

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