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Ascaris lumbricoides causing 3 weeks abdominal pain: A case report

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Description

A 19-year-old man presented to the emergency department with 3 weeks of history of abdominal pain and constipation. He had nausea and vomiting 48 hours ago. Previously, he was in good health and did not have any relevant medical history. The heart rate was 87 beats per minute, with blood pressure at 100/70 mm Hg. Upon examination, the abdomen was soft and without tenderness. Lab studies have shown a hemoglobin level of 14 g per deciliter (reference range, 12 to 15), and a white blood cell level of 7600 per cubic millimeter (reference range, 4000 to 11000). He reported feeling good and noticed that he had passed some worms in his stool. Examination of the stool for eggs and parasites revealed fertilized eggs from roundworms of the species Ascaris lumbricoides and an ascariasis diagnosis was established. Abdominopelvic CT performed (Figures 1,2) revealed worm-like stricture shown as a filling defect in the small intestine. The patient was treated with mebendazole and he was referred to an infectious disease specialist for further treatment.

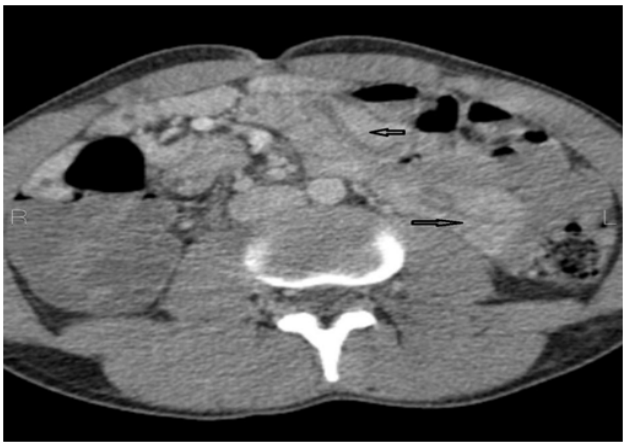

Figure 1: Axial section of contrast CT of the abdomen showing tubular in the ileum lumen.

Figure 2: Coronal section of contrast CT of the abdomen showing tubular in the ileum and jejunal lumen.