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The child was discharged home and remained free from further rectal bleeding. Leeches are segmented carnivorous invertebrates of the phylum Annelida and class Hirudinea. They are often found in creeks and rivers in Northern Queensland and particularly in the remote Cape York region. Leeches secrete the naturally occurring anticoagulant hirudin, which is a powerful direct thrombin inhibitor. Our case is the third case of rectal bleeding reported from a leech bite and the first in a child. In the two prior reports treatment was in the form of hemostatic drugs and colonoscopic electrocoagulation. In our case the bleeding resolved spontaneously.

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References

Cecal Web causing neonatal intestinal obstruction
I read with interest the article ‘Cecal web causing neonatal intestinal obstruction’ by Tripathi et al. From the clinical description and photograph, the present case looks like type 1 colonic atresia (Bland Sutton classification) which presents as an intraluminal obstructing web. The authors have also suggested similar etiology. Such colonic atresias in neonates though rare, are not unknown. Most of these present in neonatal life. A few patients with incomplete atresia or stenosis may present later with partial obstruction. Most colonic atresias occur in ascending colon only. In a series of 23 cases of colonic atresias, 14 occurred in ascending colon and six of these colonic atresias were in the form of web obstructing the lumen.

In neonates, distal small intestine and colon are difficult to distinguish on plain roentgenogram, however, if the ileocecal valve is incompetent, a well-demarcated cecal shadow may suggest the diagnosis preoperatively (Fig). On barium enema, a web is seen as a wind sock sign similar to one seen in duodenal atresia. The presence of ectopic gastric mucosa in the web, however, is quite interesting.

I have seen two cases of colonic obstruction due to webs at the junction of cecum and ascending colon. Resection of cecum with ileocolic anastomosis was done in both the cases and post operative course was uneventful.

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References

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No reply from Authors