ISOLATED POLYPOID
GANGLIONEUROMA OF THE
SIGMOID COLON

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BACKGROUND

Ganglioneuromas of the gastrointestinal tract are rare tumors, mainly observed as a part of hamartomatous polyposis syndromes.

We describe a case of solitary polypoid ganglioneuroma of the sigmoid colon incidentally discovered in a patient with diverticular disease.
A 44-year-old man underwent colonoscopy for colon cancer screening.

Endoscopy demonstrated a sessile polyp in the proximal part of the sigmoid colon, measuring 5 mm in largest diameter. Diverticuli of the sigmoid and rectum were also noted.

He and his family had no known history of malignancy or hereditary syndromes.
RESULTS

Microscopic examination of the polyp revealed crypts architecture disturbed by an expanded lamina propria containing spindle cells collections and groups of ganglion cells in a fibrillary matrix.
Spindle cells were immunoreactive for S100 and negative for α-smooth muscle actin; ganglion cells were negative for both markers.
The final histologic diagnosis was: **isolated polypoid ganglioneuroma of the sigmoid colon.**
DISCUSSION

Ganglioneuromas of the gastrointestinal tract may occur in 3 settings:
- as isolated lesions,
- syndromically as ganglioneuromatous polyposis,
- and as diffuse ganglioneuromatosis.

Whereas ganglioneuromatous polyposis is usually associated with familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), diffuse ganglioneuromatosis is associated with multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN) type IIb and type 1 neurofibromatosis (NF).
Isolated polypoid ganglioneuroma is not a sign for increased risk of NF or MEN, but it represents a rare entity, reported in a few cases of Cowden’s disease, tuberous sclerosis, polyposis coli, and juvenile polyposis.

To the best of our knowledge, sixteen cases of isolated polypoid ganglioneuroma were described in the literature. The interest of this lesion lies in its rarity, as well as in its endoscopic resemblance to other sessile polyps of the large bowel.

The association with diverticular disease herein observed is to be considered coincidental.
REFERENCES