

Coincidence of Acute Amoebic Appendicitis and Enterobius Vermicularis Infestation

Pages with reference to book, From 299 To 300

Dear Madam, We would like to share our experience with reference to the article 'Amoebic Appendicitis - a rare entity' by Ahmed et al., published in April, 1994, Vol. 44: No.4, pp.92-93 issue. This is an extremely unusual case report of acute amoebic appendicitis with simultaneous occurrence of enterobius vermicularis in the appendiceal lumen. Enterobius vermicularis rarely causes serious lesions in man. Most lesions are limited to gastrointestinal tract and include minute ulcers and mild mucosal inflammation of the intestine. Occasionally invasion of superficial mucosa occurs which elicits a granulomatous reaction¹. Adult worms are commonly seen in the lumen of the appendix and approximately 3% appendices submitted for histopathological examination have shown parasitic infestation². The pinworms are not the causal agent for acute appendicitis, however, some believe that it can cause inflammation or may produce symptoms resembling acute appendicitis^{3,4}. Entamoeba histolytica as a cause of acute appendicitis, either primary or secondary to colonic infection, is rare but well recognized. Coincidence of these two parasitic infestations in appendix has not been described in the literature, however, in one series, the coincidence of pinworm and Dientamoeba fragilis organisms have been described⁴. In our case the histopathological examination of appendix revealed mucosal ulceration, inflammatory exudate and many amoebic trophozoites some of which contain phagocytosed red cells. Characteristic flask shaped mucosal ulcer containing amoebic trophozoite was also seen (Figure 1).

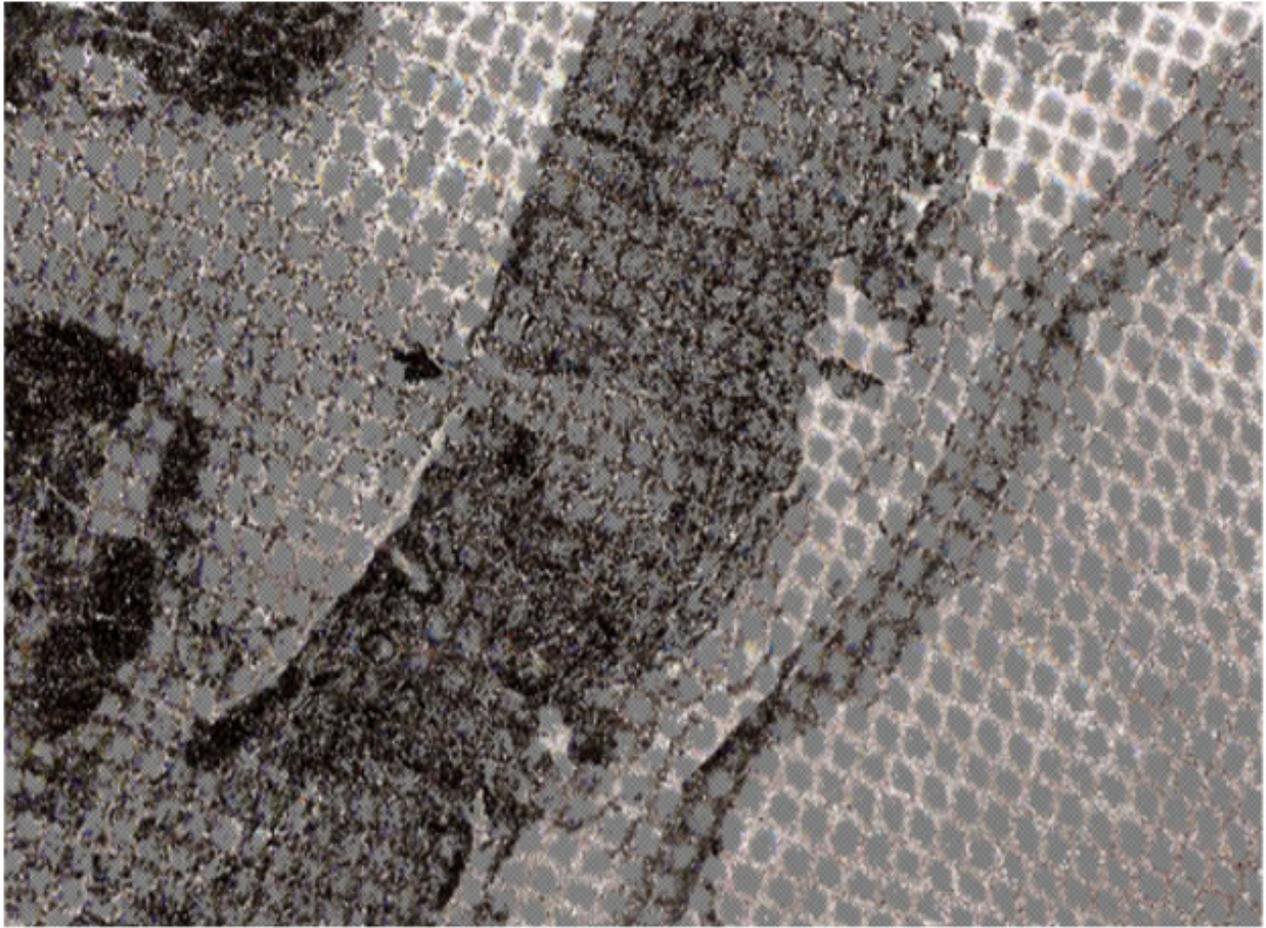


Figure 1. Photomicrograph of amoebic ulcer and abscess. Note flask shaped appearance of ulcer (arrow, H&E stain (mag = X40).

Adult worms of *enterobius vermicularis* in the appendiceal lumen surrounded by inflammatory exudate were identified in the same appendix (Figure 2).

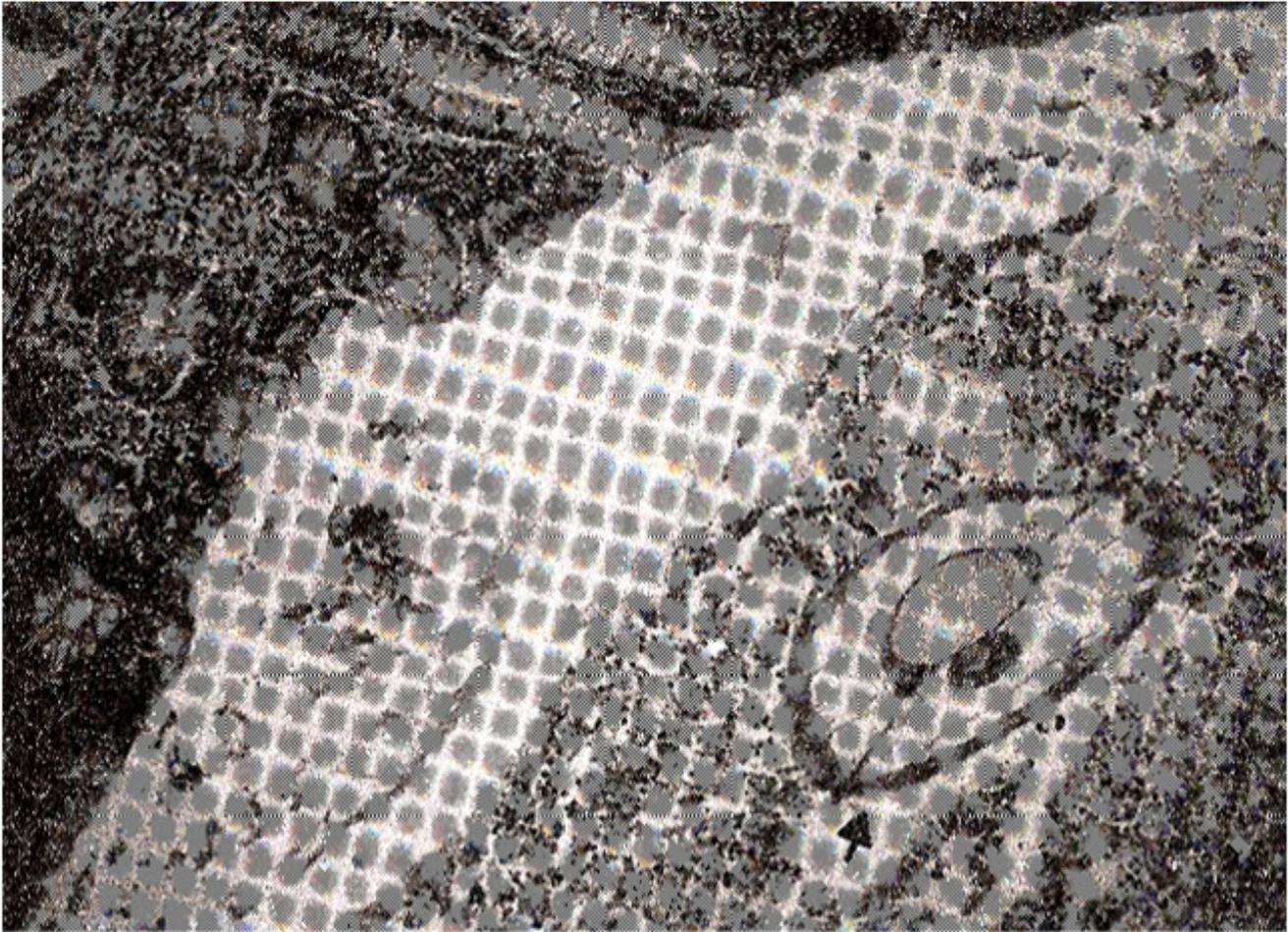


Figure 2. Photomicrograph of adult pinworm in appendix. Note characteristic latera alae (arrow), H&E stain (mag = X100).

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References

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