



## TITLE: Intestinal Tuberculosis. A case report.

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### ABSTRACT

Tuberculosis is a prevalent disease in developing countries. Extrapulmonary tuberculosis constitutes only 10 to 15% of cases in immunocompetent patients; gastrointestinal involvement represents 3 to 5% of cases within this group. It mainly affects the small bowel, particularly the terminal ileum, but can occur anywhere in the gastrointestinal tract. Diagnosis is made by histopathology and currently, tools such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) can be used to detect the microorganism.

In this case, we had a 20-year-old female without comorbidities, presented with a 3-month history of asthenia, adynamia, abdominal distension, and pain in the right lower quadrant, weight loss of 7 kg in 1 month. In addition, 2 weeks of predominantly nocturnal fever with chills. Blood test revealed WBC 5,810/mm<sup>3</sup>, NEUT 4,240/mm<sup>3</sup>, LYMPH 760/mm<sup>3</sup>, HGB 13.9 g/dL, HCT 41.7%, PLT 359,000/mm<sup>3</sup>. ALB 2.4 g/dL, LDH 463 U/L, HIV test negative, viral hepatitis panel negative.

Abdominal US revealed a possible cystic peritoneal mesothelioma, an abdominal and pelvic contrast-enhanced CT was performed and showed concentric wall thickening of the cecum, terminal ileum, and ascending colon. A colonoscopy was performed and we discovered an ulcer in the sigmoid colon and a stricture that precluded passing to the rest of the colon, multiple biopsies were taken. The histologic report described

epithelioid necrotizing granulomas (PAS and Ziehl Neelsen stains were negative) compatible with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Nevertheless, a diagnosis was made with Xpert MTB/Rif which was positive for Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Directly Observed Therapy was given to the patient, observing clinical improvement. This case highlights the relevance of the prevalence of this disease in developing countries, so we need to keep in mind this entity in the differential diagnosis.



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### BIOGRAPHY

Ricardo Chicas is an Internal Medicine specialist, gastroenterologist, and currently, Advanced Gastrointestinal Endoscopy fellow at Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González” in Monterrey, Nuevo León. His research interests are related to gastrointestinal endoscopy and general gastroenterology.