

Image of the Month

Narrow band imaging enhancement could improve gastric anisakis detection

Domenico Taranto, Gabriella Sessa, Raffaella Tortora, Fabrizio Tremolaterra*

Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit, Clinica Mediterranea, via Orazio 2, 80122 Naples, Italy

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 1 December 2009

Accepted 9 February 2010

Available online 27 March 2010

Gastrointestinal anisakiasis is a parasitic disease acquired by humans after ingestion of raw fish infected with third stage larvae of the nematode *Anisakis simplex*. Even if considered a rare disease in Western countries, it is underestimated in many Italian regions with large fishing-based activities and widespread consumption of raw sea food.

We found 6 cases of gastric anisakiasis in the last 3 years by careful history-taking in subjects with unresponsive gastric pain after raw fish ingestion.

At gastroscopy nematode detection is not always immediate, since it is often hidden among gastric folds and can be confused with gastric mucus; mucosal inflammation may further hide the larvae.

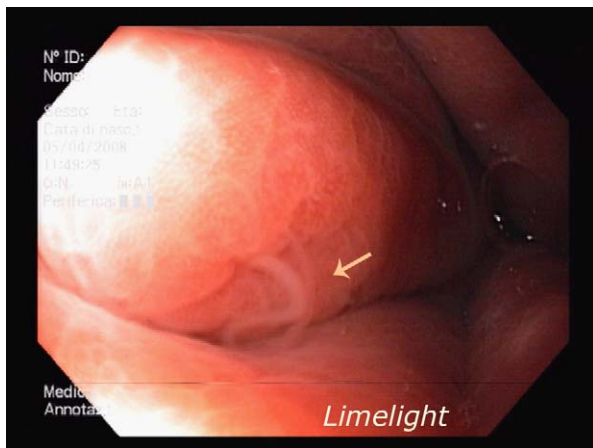


Fig. 1.

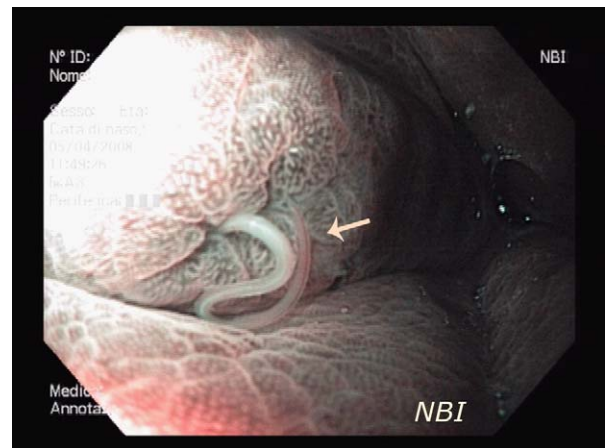


Fig. 2.

In two of our cases the parasite resembled a thin mucous thread and its identification was particularly difficult with normal white light; however water flashing of the mucosal surface and the use of narrow band imaging (NBI) helped detect the parasite (Figs. 1 and 2).

This method of virtual chromoendoscopy, although not recommended for routine examination, emphasises the contrast between small vessels and normal tissue, as well as minute structures within the upper mucosal layers; from our experience it increases the chance of detecting gastric anisakiasis in case of uncertain findings on white light.

After diagnosis, the parasites were removed with biopsy forceps in all cases with no complications.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +39 0817259209; fax: +39 0817259209.
E-mail address: fabriziotremolaterra@virgilio.it (F. Tremolaterra).