

# The enteroscopy beauty in Herman's syndrome

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We present a case of a 36-year-old man with Herman's syndrome (infection *Giardia lamblia* + hypogammaglobulinaemia + nodular lymphoid hyperplasia) presenting a history of chronic diarrhoea due to *Giardia lamblia* refractory to several courses of treatment with antiparasitic agents. The infection resistance to the therapy is uncommon and the research has revealed significant reduction of immunoglobulin subclasses.<sup>1</sup> Enteroscopy carried out whether by the technique of double balloon (Fig. 1) or endoscopic capsule (Fig. 2) has shown findings of nodular lymphoid hyperplasia. The adoption of a combined therapy with monthly intravenous immunoglobulins and antiparasitic agents was successful with diarrhea stopping, weight gain and *Giardia lamblia* eradication.

Giardiasis, presenting difficulties in the treatment, chronicity and frequent recurrent episodes should therefore be kept in mind as a manifestation of a primary immunity disorder. Common variable immunodeficiency is featured by a dysfunction of the T and B lymphocytes and by hypogammaglobulinaemia. Repeated infections of the respiratory tract are frequent. Around half of the patients present problems related to the gastrointestinal system as malabsorption syndromes and chronic diarrhoea.<sup>2</sup>

*Giardia lamblia* is the most frequent cause and requires, in several occasions, more than one cycle of specific treatment to eradicate the infection. Nodular lymphoid hyperplasia, diffuse lymphoid infiltration and villi losses are frequent findings in these patients biopsy.<sup>3</sup> The risk of intestinal neoplasm is well established in such patients, although it is not as clear as the association with extra intestinal lymphoma.<sup>3</sup> ■



FIG. 1

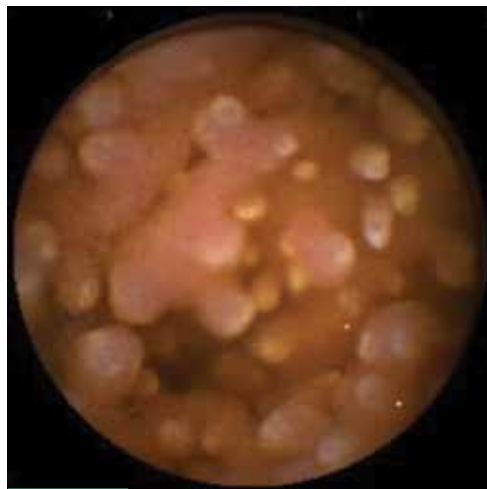


FIG. 2

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