Experience of intussusception at a tertiary care hospital: A prospective study

Raghu Nandan Y*, Rajeev N
Department of General Surgery, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, India.

Abstract

Introduction: Intussusception of the bowel is defined as the telescoping of a proximal segment of the gastrointestinal tract within the lumen of the adjacent segment. This condition is frequent in children and presents with the classic triad of cramping abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea and a palpable tender mass. However, bowel intussusception in adults is considered a rare condition, accounting for 5% of all cases of intussusceptions and almost 1%-5% of bowel obstruction. Eight to twenty percent of cases are idiopathic, without a lead point lesion. Secondary intussusception is caused by organic lesions, such as inflammatory bowel disease, postoperative adhesions, Meckel’s diverticulum, benign and malignant lesions, metastatic neoplasms or even iatrogenically, due to the presence of intestinal tubes, jejunostomy feeding tubes or after gastric surgery. Computed tomography is the most sensitive diagnostic modality and can distinguish between intussusceptions with and without a lead point. Surgery is the definitive treatment of adult intussusceptions. Formal bowel resection with oncological principles is followed for every case where a malignancy is suspected. Reduction of the intussuscepted bowel is considered safe for benign lesions in order to limit the extent of resection or to avoid the short bowel syndrome in certain circumstances.

Methods: Study of 13 patients admitted between 1ST JUNE 2012 and 31ST MAY 2014 At DR.B R Ambedkar Medical College.

Results: Of 13 cases, 2 cases underwent hydrostatic reduction one case failed and underwent emergency laparotomy and resection anastomosis, 6 cases underwent operative reduction, 4 cases underwent resection anastomosis, 1 case of PJS underwent operative resection and polypectomy, 1 case of PJS underwent resection anastomosis and polypectomy, 1 case of PJS refused surgery and expired.

Conclusion: Though hydrostatic /pneumatic reduction is the mainstay of treatment in developed countries in our country most cases are diagnosed and referred later than 72hrs Hence, non-operative reduction may not be always be feasible in most of the patients in our setup and number of patients requiring resection and anastomosis, is high. In older patients of intussusception pathological lead points should be suspected.
Methodology

Methods of collection of data: Study of 13 patients admitted between 1st June 2012 and 31st May 2014 at Dr. BR Ambedkar Medical College.

Inclusion criteria: All cases of intussusception of all ages and gender presented to our hospital including those who refused surgery.

Results

Case details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>Number Of Pts</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal mass</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Red currant jelly&quot; stools</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vomiting</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal distention</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypovolemic shock</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pallor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Red currant jelly stools:

Etiology:

- POLYP -1
- GIST -1
- PJS -3
- IDIOPATHIC -9
- IDIOPATHIC -8
- POLYP -1
- PJS -3
- GIST -1

Evaluation:

- Clinical Examination
- Erect X-Ray Abdomen
- Usg Abdomen
- Cect Abdomen
- Clinical Examination
- Erect X-Ray Abdomen
- Usg Abdomen
- Cect Abdomen
Abdominal distention:

Erect x-ray abdomen:
Erect x-ray abdomen was done to look for free air under diaphragm and to look for obstruction

Ultrasonography:
- All patients underwent USG
- Doppler was used to determine bowel ischemia; guides reduction decisions
- Ultrasonography was diagnostic in 93% of our cases

Computer tomography:
- CT was done in 2 of our cases
- 1 case of PEUTZ JEGHERS SYNDROME
- 1 case was of chronic intussusception with benign polyp as lead point in ascending colon

Peutz Jeghers Syndrome:

Chronic intussusception with benign polyp:

Management:
- HYDROSTATIC SALINE REDUCTION:
- Patients of age <3 years presented with 72 hrs of duration underwent hydrostatic saline reduction under USG guidance.
- 2 cases- 1 case failed and underwent emergency laparotomy and resection anastomosis.

Operative reduction of ileoileal intussusception:
Operative reduction of ileocolic intussusception: 

Peutz Jeghers syndrome:
- Our case report - 3 cases (family)
- 2 male - 11, 50 yrs (father)
- 1 female - 8 years

PEUTZ JEGHERS SYNDROME (FAMILY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vital Signs</th>
<th>In shock</th>
<th>WNL</th>
<th>shock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muco-cutaneous Jn</td>
<td>Hyperpigmented spots on both the lips &amp; buccal mucosa</td>
<td>Hyperpigmented spots present over buccal mucosa</td>
<td>Hyperpigmented spots present over buccal mucosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Abdomen</td>
<td>Tender mass in the umbilical region with abdominal distension</td>
<td>Tender mass in right hypochondrium</td>
<td>abdominal distension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per rectal</td>
<td>Red currant jelly stools</td>
<td>WNL</td>
<td>WNL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USG</td>
<td>Jejunoileal intussusception</td>
<td>Ileocolic intussusception</td>
<td>Ileocolic intussusception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xray Abdomen</td>
<td>Multiple air fluid levels</td>
<td>NOT DONE</td>
<td>Multiple air fluid levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT Scan Abdomen</td>
<td>Jejunoileal intussusception</td>
<td>NOT DONE</td>
<td>NOT DONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>management</td>
<td>Operative reduction and Resection anastomosis</td>
<td>Operative reduction and polypectomy through enterotomy</td>
<td>refused</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Muco-cutaneous pigmentation in Peutz Jeghers syndrome:

Peutz Jeghers syndrome - per operative findings in the child
- Jejuno-ileal intussusception with multiple polyps in the jejunum.
- Gangrene of the bowel seen.

Multiple polyps resected from the viable bowel through enterotomy:

Arrow showing the polyp:
Resected segment with multiple polyps:

Chronic intussusception:

- 12 years old female patient presented with chronic abdominal pain since 6 months.
- USG ABDOMEN-WNL.
- CT ABDOMEN.

Chronic intussusception with benign polyp

Our results:

- Of 13 cases, 2 cases underwent hydrostatic reduction one case failed and underwent emergency laparotomy and resection anastomosis.
- 6 cases underwent operative reduction.
- 4 cases underwent resection anastomosis.
- 1 case of PJS underwent operative reduction and polypectomy.
- 1 case of PJS underwent resection anastomosis and polypectomy.
- 1 case of PJS refused surgery and expired.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13 Cases</th>
<th>Age and Sex</th>
<th>Type and Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 months/F</td>
<td>Ileocolic-Oper Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6 months/F</td>
<td>Ileocolic-Failed Hydrostatic Reduction –Oper Reduction &amp; Resection Anastomosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9 months/M</td>
<td>Ileoileal-Oper Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 years/M</td>
<td>Ileocolic-Oper Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4 years/M</td>
<td>Ileocolic- Hydrostatic Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5 years/M</td>
<td>Ileoileal-Oper Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 years/M</td>
<td>Ileoileal-Oper Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8 years/F</td>
<td>Jejunojejunal-Oper Reduction &amp; Polypectomy And Enterotomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9 years/M</td>
<td>Jejunojejunal-Oper Reduciton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 years/M</td>
<td>Jejunojejunal/PJS-Oper Reduction &amp; Resection Anastomosis And Polypectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 years/F</td>
<td>Chronic Intussusception With Polyp-Resection Anastomosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>50 years</td>
<td>Jejunojejunal/PJS-Refused Surgery And Expired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>52 years</td>
<td>Colocolic Intussusception/Gist-Resection Anastomosis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion:

Etiologies of intussusception:

- Idiopathic:
  - no defined lead point
  - Association with viral illness (adenovirus)
  - Hypertrophy of lymphoid tissue

- Recognizable cause for lead point:
  - Meckel’s diverticulum
  - Intestinal polyp
  - Enteric duplication
  - Lymphoma
  - Intramural hematoma
• Henoch-Schönlein purpura

Clinical presentation: Variable

• Classic Triad: abdominal pain, currant jelly stool, palpable abdominal mass (<50%).

Complications:

• Typically do not occur within the first 24 hrs...
• Bowel obstruction
• Intestinal ischemia
• Perforation
• Shock
• Sepsis
• Dehydration

Thus we have a window of opportunity in which to treat by hydrostatic or pneumatic reduction procedure and avoid surgery.

Screening tools:

Abdominal radiograph

• Screen for other differential diagnosis and free air
• 45% sensitivity

Abdominal sonography

• Diagnostic accuracy near 100%, evaluation of reducibility, lead point, post reduction, ischemia
• Abdominal CT scan
• Accuracy approaching 100%; especially good for lead points
• High cost, risk of radiation, and risk of sedation in children make it unpractical

Abdominal ultrasound:

• Replaced abdominal radiograph as primary screening modality
• Sensitivity 98 -100%; specificity 88 -100%
• Appearance: outer hypoechoic region surrounding an echogenic center or multiple concentric rings
• Use Doppler to determine bowel ischemia; guides reduction decisions
• Guide hydrostatic and pneumatic reduction

Reduction procedures:

• Barium enema: previous standard for Dx and reduction
• Risk of barium: peritonitis, infection, adhesions, radiation exposure with fluoroscopy, only see lumen
• US-guided Hydrostatic reduction No radiation, good visualization of intussusception & lead points
• Need sonographer
• Pneumatic reduction with fluoroscopic guidance

Quick, safe, clean (less fecal spillage), cheap

• Radiation exposure, cannot detect lead points well, only see intraluminal content
• US-guided Pneumatic reduction
• No radiation, confirm dx, highest successful reduction rate (92%), quick and clean, can see lead points well (but not all)
• Air blocks US beam; difficult to see ileocecal valve and residual intussusceptions

Contraindications to reduction procedures:

• Dehydration
• Peritonitis
• Shock
• Sepsis
• Free air on radiograph
• Stabilize then treat surgically

Complications of reduction:

• Perforation rate of 0.8%
• Recurrence -10%
• 50% will occur within 48 hrs
• Repeat enemas are safe and effective

Reduction guidelines

• Rule of Three’s for Barium
• 3 attempts
• 3 min duration
• Liquid enema bag 3 feet above fluoroscopy table (5 feet if using water-soluble contrast)
• Air Enema Ensure maximal pressures <120 mm Hg at rest

Success of reduction depend On…

• Short duration of symptoms (<24-48 hrs)
• Adequate hydration
• Age (older than 3 months)
• Absence of small-bowel obstruction
• Absence of trapped intra peritoneal fluid
• Absence of enlarged lymph nodes in the intussusceptum
• Adequate blood flow
• Location other than the rectum (rectum only 25% success)

Peutz-jeghers syndrome

• PJS is a rare familial disease with a 4 fold increased risk of intestinal and extra intestinal malignancies.
• PJS presenting as intussusception though common in children is rare in adults representing only 1% of bowel obstruction.
• Mucocutaneous pigmentations caused by melanin aggregation is seen in 93% of patients in infancy with the pigmentation fading with age.
• Small bowel polyps can reach up to 100s in number.
• Lack of adequate follow up and cancer surveillance is a potential pitfall.
• Every 1st degree relative of PJS patient should be screened for polyps.
• Genetic counselling is recommended for patients and their relatives.
• Morbidity includes small intestinal obstruction and intussusception (43%), abdominal pain(23%), hematochezia(14%).
• Refrain from excessive resection of the bowel as PJS patients may be subjected for repeated laparotomies & resection anastomosis due to intussusception.
• Polyps found intraoperatively to be removed by enterotomy.

Conclusion
• Though hydrostatic /pneumatic reduction is the mainstay of treatment in developed countries, in our country most cases are diagnosed and referred later than 72hrs.
• Hence, non-operative reduction may not be always be feasible in most of the patients in our setup and number of patients requiring resection and anastomosis, is high.
• In older patients of intussusception pathological lead points should be suspected.

References