Unusual Endoscopic Findings of Intestinal Spirochetosis

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Clinical Image
We performed a screening colonoscopy on a 50-year old man who was scheduled to undergo right hepatectomy for hepatocellular carcinoma with hepatitis C virus infection. He did not have any symptoms such as diarrhea or blood test abnormalities. Polypoid lesions with white friable mucosa were detected in the transverse colon. The lesions were segmented, and unaffected mucosa was present between them (Figure 1 and 2). Histologic examination of a biopsy specimen from the lesions showed a fuzzy fringe covering the colonic mucosa called a pseudo-brush border.
Immunohistochemistry using anti-Treponema pallidum antibody revealed positive staining of the surface covering the epithelial cells (Figure 3 and 4). These findings were consistent with intestinal spirochetosis. We administered 1000mg metronidazole for 7 days. Follow-up colonoscopy showed that the multiple lesions in the transverse colon had disappeared. Intestinal spirochetosis can be accidentally diagnosed by mucosal biopsy because there are no remarkable endoscopic findings [1]. We propose that white-coated elevations found segmentally in the colon may be one of the endoscopic findings of intestinal spirochetosis.

References