

MIMICS OF INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

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A 77-year-old liver transplant recipient on chronic immunosuppression presenting with ileal thickening and ulceration was ultimately diagnosed with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma after initial misdiagnosis as acute gastroenteritis.

KEY POINTS

- The patient presented with abdominal pain and diarrhea; imaging showed ileal thickening and colonoscopy revealed deep mucosal ulceration of the terminal ileum
- Histopathology from ileocecal resection demonstrated atypical lymphoid proliferation with immunohistochemistry positive for CD45, CD20, CD79a, BCL2, and BCL6, compatible with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- The patient was proposed for chemotherapy following reduction of immunosuppression after staging excluded distant disease
- The authors note that small bowel lymphoma should be considered as a differential diagnosis of Crohn's disease, especially in elderly patients with chronic immunosuppression
- This case is relevant to clinicians evaluating gastrointestinal symptoms in immunosuppressed patients

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