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Summary

A RARE CAUSE OF LOWER GI BLEEDING: ISCHEMIC COLITIS DUE TO KAYEXALATE CRYSTALS

Xavier Calvet Calvo

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Colorectal

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A case report describes ischemic colitis with Kayexalate crystal deposition in a 74-year-old man treated with prolonged sodium polystyrene sulfonate for hyperkalaemia following polytrauma.

KEY POINTS

- The patient developed rectal bleeding and severe anaemia (Hb 57g/L) six weeks after admission, requiring 16 transfusions.
- Colonoscopy revealed longitudinal ulcers at the cecum, ileocecal valve and ascending colon, with biopsies showing rhomboid Kayexalate crystals in granulation tissue.
- Withdrawal of sodium polystyrene sulfonate resulted in clinical improvement with no further bleeding and progressive anaemia correction.
- Sodium polystyrene sulfonate and calcium polystyrene sulfonate are associated with ischemic gastrointestinal adverse effects, mainly colonic (76.3%), with abdominal pain (68.6%) and gastrointestinal bleeding (55.8%) as the most frequent symptoms.
- This case illustrates the gastrointestinal toxicity risk of prolonged cation exchange resin therapy in patients with chronic kidney disease and multiple comorbidities.

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