

Endoscopic Appearance of the Terminal Ileum in 100 Normal Patients

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Purpose:

Endoscopic evaluation of the terminal ileum (TI) is not a routine part of colonoscopy, yet it is important to examine the TI in circumstances when Crohn's disease, small bowel tumors or angiomas are suspected. Familiarity with the normal endoscopic anatomy is therefore essential.

Methods:

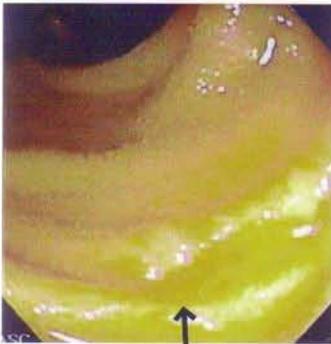
A study was undertaken to evaluate and describe the terminal ileum in 100 consecutive patients, providing macroscopic endoscopic findings.

Results:

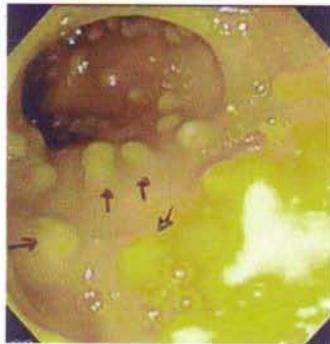
Colonoscopic entry into the TI was possible 91% of the time, therefore a total of 110 patients were examined. Presence of obvious visible villi and Peyer's patches (lymphocytic aggregates) were noted 12% and 14% of the time respectively. The remainder of the patients had a smooth granular appearance to their TI.

Conclusion:

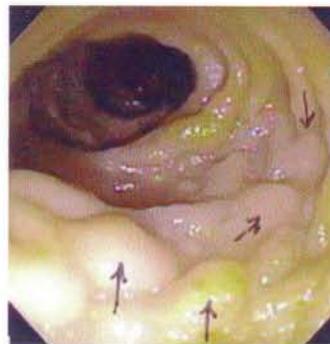
Examination of the TI in patients without clinical suspicion of Crohn's disease or enterocolitis is usually normal. Overt lymphoid aggregates (Peyer's patches) are present 14% of the time and may be mistaken for polyps or an abnormality, prompting unnecessary biopsies by the inexperienced endoscopist.



Visible Villi



Peyer's Patches



Peyer's Patches



Smooth Granular TI