

Incidental Multifocal Colonic Hemangiomas During Bariatric Workup

Maryam Hassanesfahani, MD | Manpreet Kaur | Mitanshu Shah
Flushing Hospital Medical Center, NY USA



WHY THIS MATTERS

- Exceptionally rare benign vascular malformation
- Diffuse or multifocal colonic involvement
- Often mistaken for:
 - Angiodysplasia
 - Other vascular malformations
 - Neoplasms
- Misdiagnosis → unnecessary biopsy/intervention
- Important in preoperative bariatric evaluation

CASE SNAPSHOT

54-year-old man with HTN and severe OSA.

Underwent screening colonoscopy as part of pre bariatric surgery workup.

Colonoscopy Findings:

Multiple bluish, compressible vascular lesions
Involving several colonic segments
Suggestive of hemangiomas

Clinical status:

No gastrointestinal symptoms
No anemia
No active bleeding

Management:

Conservative approach
Uneventful robotic-assisted sleeve gastrectomy 6 months later
No gastrointestinal complications on follow-up

CONCLUSIONS

- Colonic hemangiomas $\approx$ 0.05% of all intestinal neoplasms¹
- Multifocal colonic hemangiomas: <10 adult cases reported since 1950²
- ~80% cavernous subtype³
- Arise from submucosal vascular plexus
- No standardized treatment guidelines
- Management should be symptom-based
- Symptomatic (bleeding, anemia, obstruction) → consider intervention
- Asymptomatic + classic features → safe monitoring
- Must be distinguished from other vascular and neoplastic lesions
- Prevents misdiagnosis and unnecessary procedures
- Angiodysplasia: flat, arborizing mucosal lesions in elderly patients
- Hemangiomas: submucosal, bluish, compressible nodules that may span multiple segments
- Other vascular malformations and tumors differ in flow characteristics and histologic architecture
- Classic endoscopic appearance → biopsy may not be required
- Biopsy carries significant bleeding risk
- Increased awareness prevents unnecessary interventions
- Supports conservative management when appropriate

