A CASE OF DOUBLE COMPOUND INTUSSUSCEPTION IN AN INFANT

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SYNOPSIS

This is a report of a double compound intussusception of the ileum and colon, a rare presentation of a common problem in infancy.

INTRODUCTION

Intussusception is common in infancy and childhood but multiple compound intussusception is rare. No case has been reported in the last 15 years although there have been reports of individual cases of multiple or compound intussusception.

HISTORY

A 7 month baby Chinese male was admitted with a history of diarrhoea for 3 days and vomiting for 2 days. The stools were initially yellowish and soft to watery but became blood stained and contained mucus the day before admission. Vomiting occurred after each meal. There was no previous history of note. He was the second of 2 children, the brother being well.

On examination at admission the infant was febrile, dehydrated and lethargic. An elongated mass 8 cm by 6 cm was palpated in the right iliac fossa. Per-rectal examination was normal. A diagnosis of intussusception was made and he was prepared for laparotomy.

OPERATIVE FINDINGS

At operation two compound intussusceptions were found. One compound intussusception was at the right subhepatic region being an ileo-caecal and colo-colic intussusceptions of the caecum and ascending colon. The other was an ilec-colic, colo-colic at the transverse colon. The ileal intussuseptant extended down to the sigmoid colon. (See fig.) The appendix was normal. The gut was congested but viable. The mesenteric nodes were enlarged and there was a small amount of serous fluid in the peritoneal cavity.

The intussusceptions were reduced manually and an appendicectomy done. The patient recovered uneventfully and was discharged on the 6th postoperative day.

DISCUSSION

Multiple and compound intussusceptions are rare though intussusception is not. In the last 15 years, not a single case report of double compound intussusceptions has been found.

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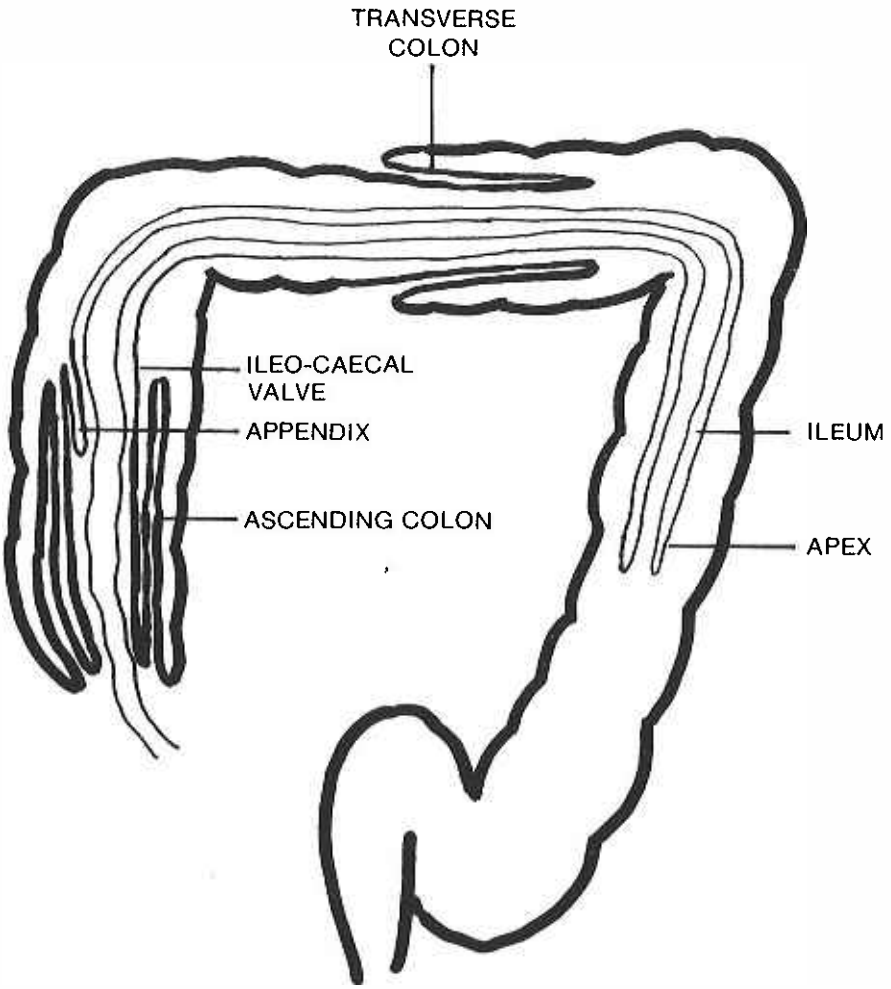

DOUBLE COMPOUND INTUSSUSCEPTION

Mustafa in 1976 reported a double intussusception of small bowel through a patent vitello intestinal duct, a similar presentation as that of Soutar in 1958. However, these cases are in newborn babies with congenital vitello-intestinal ducts.

In 1969 Baumgartner reported a case of multiple intussusception associated with lipomatoses and multiple diverticula while Gough in 1960 showed one caused by a bezoar. Others are seen at necropsy as an incidental finding with no evidence of obstruction or related symptoms.

There has been no report of a multiple compound intussusception despite many reviews of intussusceptions in various hospitals. (Auldist, 1970; Ein & Stephens, 1971; Ching et al, 1970).

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