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IMAGES IN PAEDIATRICS

Gastric *Helicobacter heilmannii* infection

Infección gástrica por *Helicobacter heilmannii*

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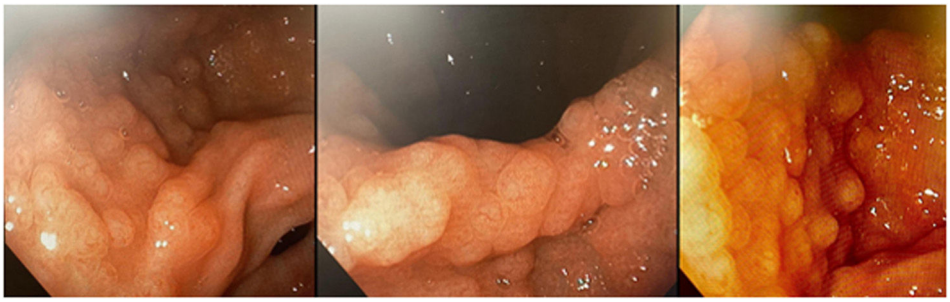

Figure 1 Multiple nodules in the antrum and lesser curvature of the stomach corresponding to homogeneous granular-type lateral-spreading tumors (LSTs).

Chronic gastritis is the most common clinical manifestation caused by *Helicobacter pylori*. There are other, less prevalent *Helicobacter* species that cause gastrointestinal disease, such as *Helicobacter heilmannii*, which is associated with nodular antral gastritis.[1,2]

We present the case of a child aged 3 years who had multiple food allergies and lived in a rural area in close contact with cats, with a reported history of difficulty swallowing solids, epigastric pain and frequent vomiting. Blood tests revealed vitamin B_{12} deficiency and iron-deficiency anemia refractory to treatment. Endoscopy allowed visualization of antral mucosa nodularity with a polypoid appearance (Fig. 1), and the histological examination revealed the presence of spiral-shaped bacteria compatible with *H. heilmannii* (Figs. 2 and 3); culture of the biopsy specimen was not performed. After diagnosis, the patient received triple

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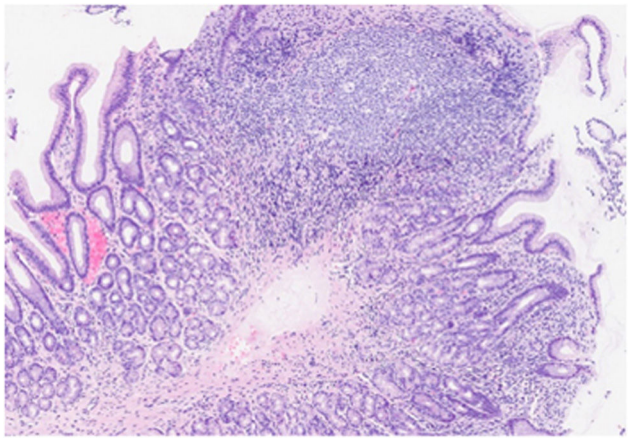

Figure 2 Active chronic follicular gastritis in the antral mucosa (hematoxylin-eosin, original magnification ×10).

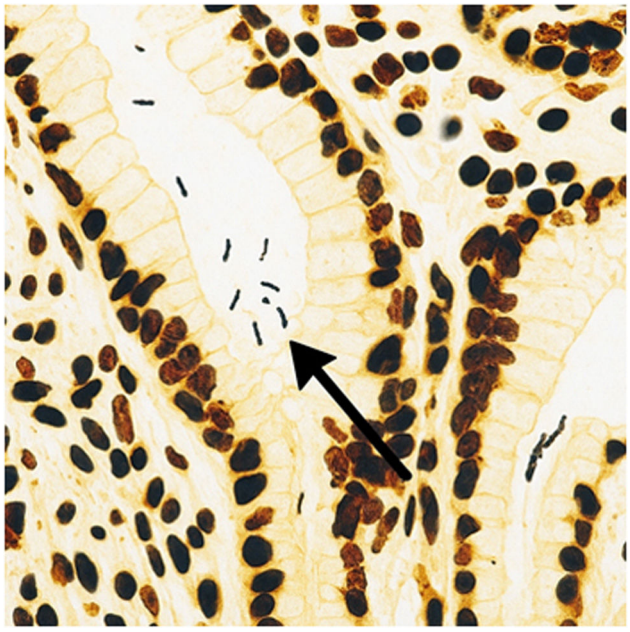

Figure 3 Presence of *Helicobacter*-like spiral-shaped bacteria, compatible with *H. heilmannii* (Warthin-Starry, original magnification ×40).

therapy (omeprazole, amoxicillin and metronidazole) for 14 days, which achieved resolution of symptoms.

H. heilmannii is a bacterium that spreads through zoonotic transmission that is rare in our area and is strongly associated with pets.[3] Although it is morphologically different from *H. pylori*, endoscopic and histologic findings may be very similar in both species. We ought to underscore the need of additional microbiological tests in cases of non-pylori *Helicobacter* infection to improve the management of affected patients.[2,3] Conventional *H. pylori* treatment can achieve eradication of *H. heilmannii*.[3]

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