

Prerectal tailgut cyst presenting with constipation and pseudo-rectal prolapse. A rare case presentation

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Abstract

Tail gut cysts are rare congenital developmental cysts arising from the remnants of the primitive gut and occur almost exclusively in the retrorectal space. The incidence is estimated at 1:40000 with a strong female predominance. We report a case of a 6-month-old male infant presenting with constipation and a protruding rectal mass. A laparotomy revealed a cystic mass located retrovesically but anterior to the rectum, which was then resected with a combined anterior plus posterior dissection. A breach of the rectal mucosa necessitated a proximal diversion stoma. Histology revealed a Tailgut Cyst. The infant subsequently did well and had successful closure of stoma 6 months post-operatively. In this report, we present a highly unusual site of origin of a tailgut cyst(prerectal) and in the discussion we highlight the elusive nature of this diagnosis to create awareness which should allow for better recognition and appropriate therapy of this condition.