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## Published In/Presented At

El Tawil, D., Paul, A. & Grau, J. (2014, October, 22). *Rectal Polyp with Atypical Lymphoid Infiltrate; Rectal Lymphoma or Rectal Tonsil*. Poster session presented at the NASPGHAN 2014 Annual Meeting and Postgraduate Course, Atlanta, GA.

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# Rectal Polyp with Atypical Lymphoid Infiltrate; Rectal Lymphoma or Rectal Tonsil

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## Introduction

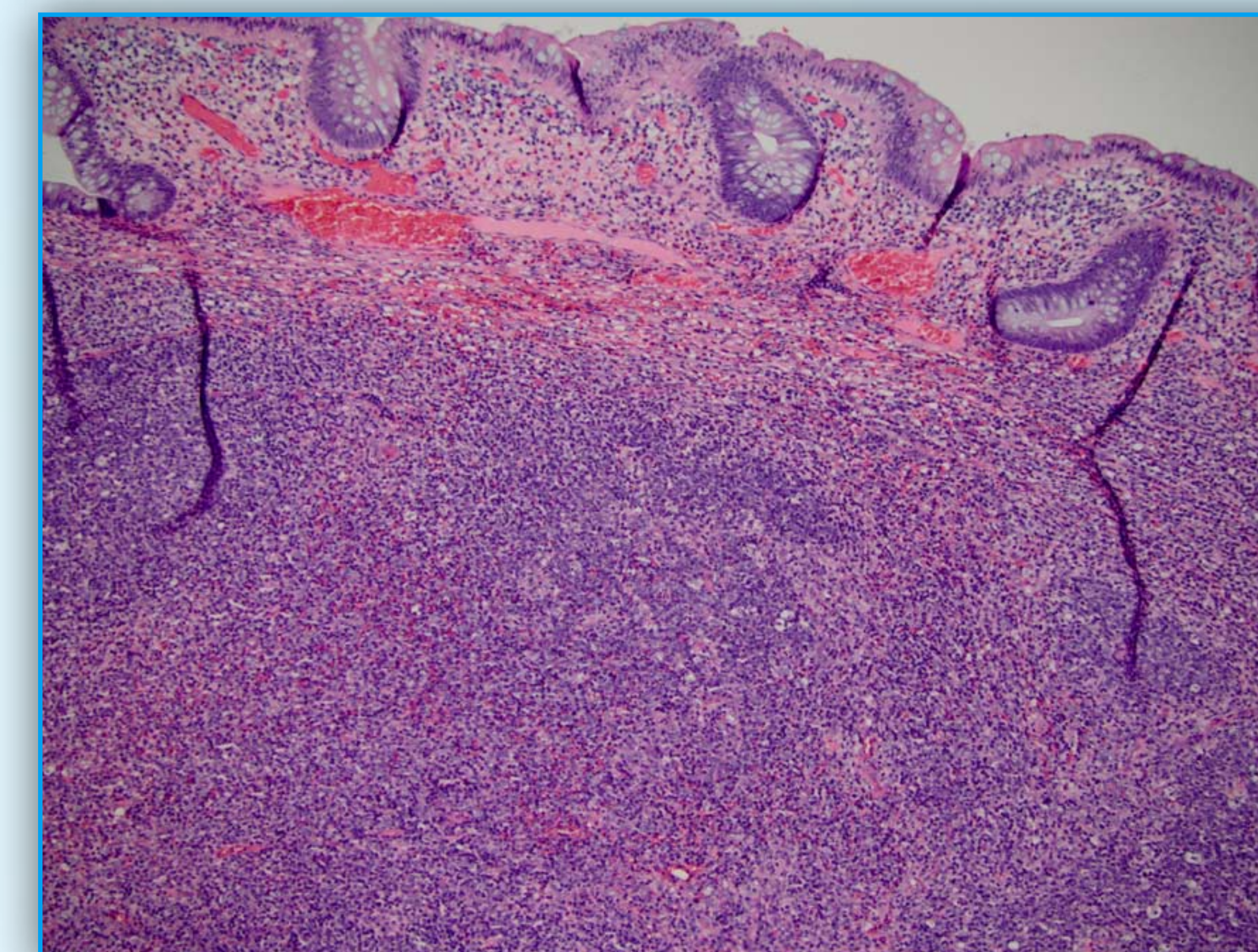
- Rectal polyps are a common cause of rectal bleeding.
- In most instances, rectal polyps are benign hamartomatous juvenile polyps.
- Though the finding is rare, gastrointestinal lymphomas should be considered when polyps contain atypical lymphoid infiltrates.
- Rectal tonsils are benign localized reactive proliferations of lymphoid tissue not commonly reported in children.
- The rectal tonsil appears as a polyp and resembles lymphoma under histological examination.

## Case Presentation

- 6 year old previously healthy male presents with 4 weeks of hematochezia.
- The patient underwent EGD & colonoscopy and a 1 cm pedunculated polyp in the distal rectum was excised by snare polypectomy and sent for pathology.
- The polyp was shown to have atypical lymphoid infiltrate involving the mucosa and the submucosa of the rectum.
- The pathology report was initially consistent with rectal lymphoma
- Immunophenotype and the molecular studies then were performed which favored reactive lymphoid hyperplasia consistent with a rectal tonsil.
- The esophageal biopsies showed a slight increase in eosinophils, the remainder of the gastric, duodenal, colonic, and terminal ileal biopsies showed no diagnostic abnormalities.



Polyps seen on endoscopy



Section of excised polyp shows a large asymmetric germinal centers with large transformed interfollicular lymphocytes.

## Discussion

- The rectal tonsil, also known as the benign lymphoid polyp, can present with intermittent rectal bleeding or pain.
- On endoscopy it is usually located in the rectum just proximal to the dentate line.
- Its histology mimics a gastrointestinal lymphoma, which is the most common extra nodal location of lymphoma.
- Diagnosis of rectal lymphomas require supportive immunohistochemical staining and genotypic studies.
- The treatment for a rectal tonsil is local excision.
- Since the endoscopic and histologic appearance is similar to rectal lymphoma it is critical to perform further testing on path sections.

## Conclusions

- When the histology of a polyp is suggestive of lymphoma, it is important to include rectal tonsil in the differential diagnosis. This can help decrease or avoid undue familial anxiety, additional medical testing and referrals.

### References:

- 1 Farris, AB, et al. The rectal tonsil: a reactive lymphoid proliferation that may mimic lymphoma. *Am J Surg Pathol.* 2008 Jul;32(7):1075-9.
- 2 Kojima M,, et al. Localized lymphoid hyperplasia of the rectum resembling polypoid mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma: a report of three cases. *Pathol Res Pract* 2005; 201:757-761.

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