"IS IT JUST A GASTROENTERITIS?"

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BACKGROUND AND AIMS:

Abdominal pain is a common reason for medical observation in the emergency room, with an extensive differential diagnosis. It can be attributable to benign causes, as an acute gastroenteritis (AGE), but it can also be a symptom of a more serious disease, and thus it is essential to be alert to warning signs.

METHODS:

A case study of a Burkitt lymphoma (BL) in a young boy is described.

CASE REPORT:

Male, 11 years old, caucasian race, previously healthy

CONCLUSIONS:

Abdominal BL may be present as an abdominal pain or mass, intestinal obstruction, or altered bowel habits in 25% of cases, and, more rarely, gastrointestinal bleeding and intestinal perforation.

In this case report, the authors intend to alert to the importance of alarm signals during evaluation of abdominal pain, particularly when associated with night-time awakenings.

Intussusception occurs most often between three and eighteen months of age, and its occurrence outside this age range, anterior location, and recurrent episodes associated with constitutional symptoms could prompt investigation of secondary causes.

Currently, for pediatric BL, disease-free survival rates above 90% are reported in the early stages, with 75-85% of patients surviving the disease to adulthood.

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