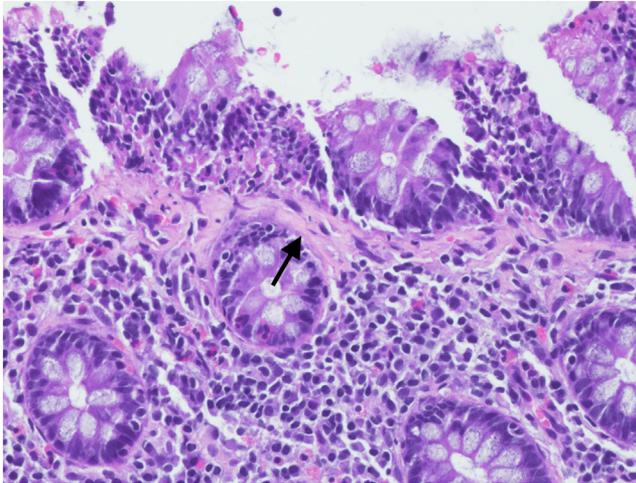


IMAGE OF THE MONTH

COVID-19-Induced Collagenous Colitis

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A 37-year-old woman with no past medical history presented with a complaint of chronic diarrhea. Nine months earlier, she was diagnosed with COVID-19 via polymerase chain reaction testing. During her initial infection, she had developed acute gastrointestinal symptoms including nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Most of her acute symptoms resolved except for diarrhea. She described loose watery stools along with bloating. Prior to the diagnosis of COVID-19, she did not have any gastrointestinal symptoms and was not on any medications. Workup including celiac serologies,

thyroid stimulating hormone, and stool polymerase chain reaction panel for infections was unremarkable. Colonoscopy was performed which revealed normal-appearing colon mucosa. Random biopsies were obtained which revealed a thickened subepithelial collagen band (arrow) consistent with collagenous colitis (Figure). Treatment with an 8-week course of budesonide 9 mg PO daily resulted in clinical remission without relapse. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first reported case of collagenous colitis triggered by COVID-19. The patient was healthy prior to COVID-19 infection and was not on any potential culprit medications such as PPIs, NSAIDs, or SSRIs. How severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 infection could lead to collagenous colitis is unknown, but dysregulated immune responses may play a role.

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The corresponding author, on behalf of all authors, jointly and severally, certifies that their institution has approved the protocol for any investigation involving humans or animals and that all experimentation was conducted in conformity with ethical and humane principles of research.

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