Approach to the Diagnostic Workup and Management of Small Bowel Lesions at a Tertiary Care Center (poster)

David Stein  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Jonathan Green  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Christopher R. Schlieve  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

*See next page for additional authors*

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Authors
David Stein, Jonathan Green, Christopher R. Schlieve, Ann K. Friedrich, Kevin P. Baratta, David H. Ma, May Min, Krunal Patel, David R. Cave, Demetrius E. M. Litwin, and Mitchell A. Cahan

Keywords
Small bowel, Minimally-invasive surgery, Gastrointestinal bleed

Comments
David Stein participated in this study as a medical student as part of the Senior Scholars research program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. His work was presented on Senior Scholars Program Poster Presentation Day at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA, on May 2, 2018.

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Approach to the Diagnostic Workup and Management of Small Bowel Lesions at a Tertiary Care Center

Stein D1, Green J1, Schlieve CR1, Friedrich AK2, Baratta K2, Ma DH1, Min M1, Patel K1, Cave DR1, Litwin DE1, Cahan MA1
1University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester MA 01655
2 Saint Mary’s Hospital, 56 Franklin Street, Waterbury, Connecticut, 06706

Background and Purpose

• Primary small bowel lesions (SBLs) are difficult to diagnose with modern endoscopic and radiographic techniques.
• SBLs are rare, yet vary widely in pathology and gastrointestinal tract location.
• It is important to review prior SBL cases to understand what factors were most beneficial in directing diagnostic approaches and subsequent treatments for these patients.
• Here, we evaluate diagnostic modalities and management practices of patients with SBLs at an advanced endoscopic referral center.

Methods

• We analyzed patients undergoing surgical management for SBL from 2005-2015 at a single tertiary care center.
• Patients were stratified into two major presenting symptoms and signs: Gastrointestinal bleed/anemia (GIBA) or obstruction/pain (OP).

Results Summary

• 112 patients underwent surgery after presenting with GIBA (n=67) or OP (n=45).
• Mean age was 61.8 years and 45% were women.
• Patients with GIBA had a higher body mass index, were more likely to have chronic or acute-on-chronic symptoms (100% vs. 67%), and more often referred from outside hospitals (82% vs. 44%) (p<0.01).
• Most common preoperative imaging modalities were video capsule endoscopy (VCE) (96%) for GIBA and computer tomography CT (78%) for OP.
• VCE and CT findings were frequently concordant with operative findings in GIBA (67%) and OP (54%) patients, respectively.
• Intraoperative visual inspection or palpation of the bowel identified lesions in 71% of patients.
• Intraoperative Enteroscopy confirmed or identified lesions in 69% of GIBA patients (n=26).
• 90% of GIBA patients had a small bowel resection (93% laparoscopic)
• 58% of OP patients had a small bowel resection (81% laparoscopic)
• Surgical exploration failed to identify lesions in 10% of GIBA patients and 24% of OP patients.
• 20% of GIBA patients (vs. 13% of OP patients) who underwent resections had recurrent symptoms.

Conclusions

• Management and identification of SBL is governed by presenting symptomatology.
• Optimal management includes VCE and IE for GIBA and CT scans for OP patients.
• Comprehensive evaluation may require referral to specialized centers.

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