



IMAGE OF THE MONTH

06/2021

FROM YOUNG ESPGHAN

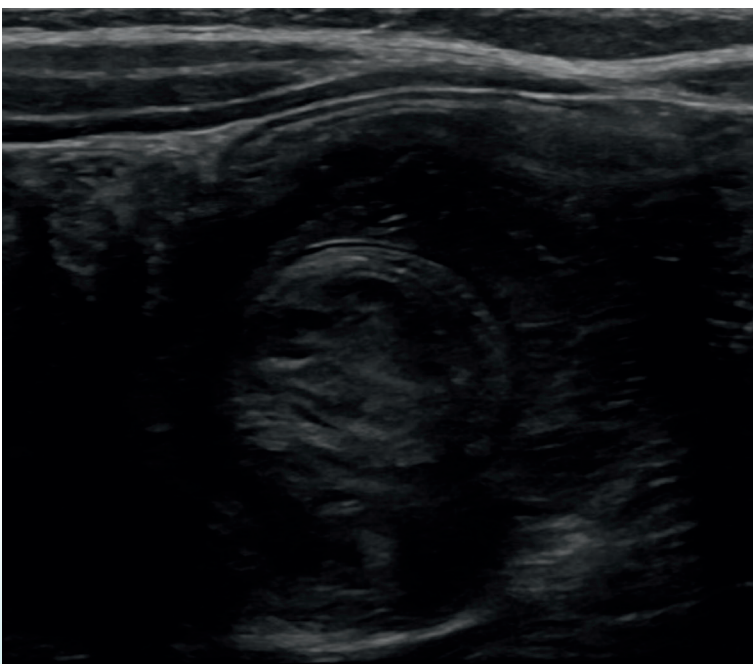
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Fluctuating consciousness as presenting symptom of intussusception

A 22 months old boy presented to emergency department with fluctuating consciousness. He woke up early this morning complaining of diffuse pain. Three hours later he started crying and reaching for his abdomen and the parents noticed a profound lethargy. These episodes reoccurred several times. In between he was uncomfortable and restless. No previous medical history. No fever, normal stool and appetite. Physical examination showed an ABC stable child with continuous fluctuating consciousness and lethargy for 20-40 seconds only responding to pain without any other neurological abnormalities. Under the suspicion of an epileptic seizure he received a single dose of intravenous midazolam and fell asleep. Repeated physical examination revealed a painful mass in the right lower abdomen. An abdominal ultrasound was performed showing an ileocolic intussusception (picture below) with mesenteric lymph nodes. Ultrasound-guided hydrostatic reduction was successful without recurrence of symptoms afterwards.

Intussusception should be considered in the differential diagnosis in young children presenting with neurological symptoms such as alterations of consciousness, lethargy and hypotonia. The presence of altered consciousness does not directly correlate with the duration of symptoms. Different hypotheses on the cause of neurological signs and symptoms have been proposed but is still unknown¹.

1. Kleizen KJ, Hunck A, Wijnen MH, Draaisma JM. Neurological symptoms in children with intussusception. *Acta Paediatr.* 2009 Nov;98(11):1822-4.



Ileocolic intussusception with the typical appearance of a peripheral hypoechoic ring (target sign) and with central echogenicity (the pseudokidney sign).