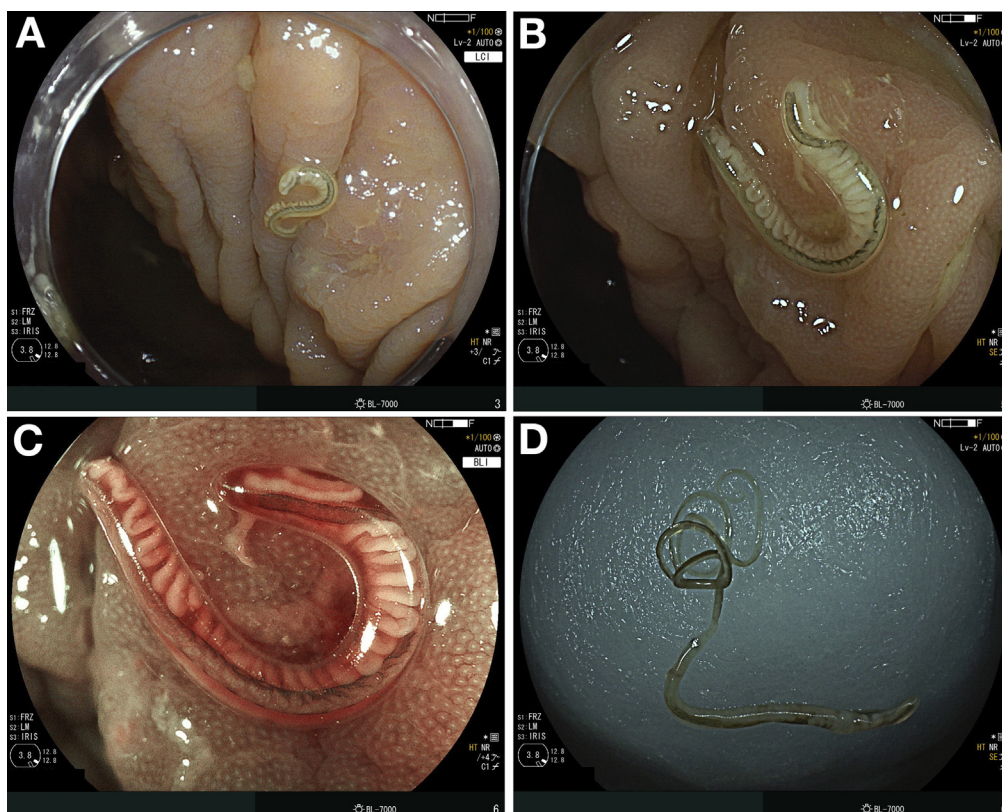


ELECTRONIC IMAGE OF THE MONTH

Trichuris trichiura in the Colon

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A 40-year-old woman who presented with a 6-month history of fatigue and feeling of abdominal bloating was referred for a colonoscopy. Physical examination was not remarkable and laboratory test results were normal. A colonoscopy showed a small white worm attached to the cecum, which was actively moving on the mucosal surface (Figure A). Half of its body was embedded into the mucosa. By using a magnifying high-definition endoscope, together with blue light imaging, the inside details of the parasite were clearly identified (Figures B and C). The whole body of the worm was extracted carefully with biopsy forceps (Figure D). The worm was identified as *Trichuris trichiura* by the microbiology examination. It is a parasitic roundworm, commonly seen in developing countries and often found

in combination with *Ascaris lumbricoides* and *Ancylostoma duodenale*. Ingested eggs of the worm from contaminated food hatch into larvae in the small intestine. The larvae penetrate the intestinal mucosa and grow there. The young worms move to the cecum, where they fully develop. Adult worms lay eggs that then spread via human feces to soil and food.

Conflicts of interest

The authors disclose no conflicts.



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