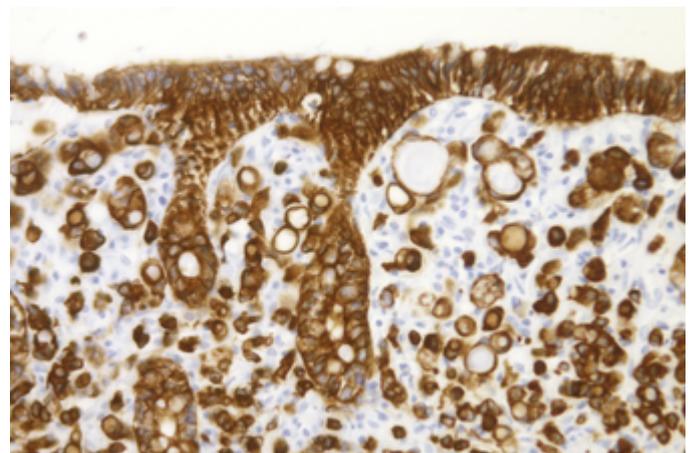
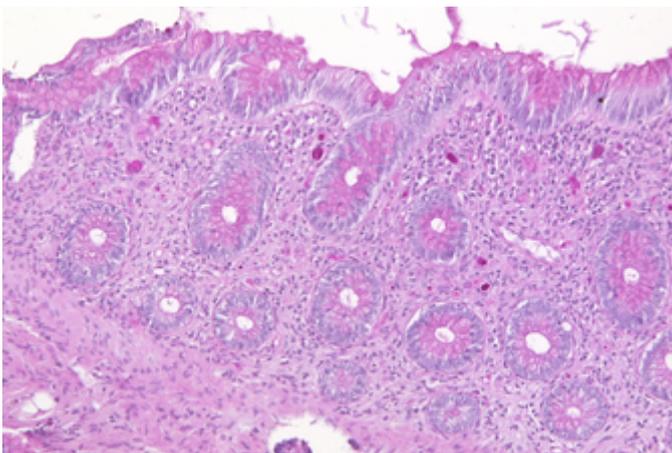
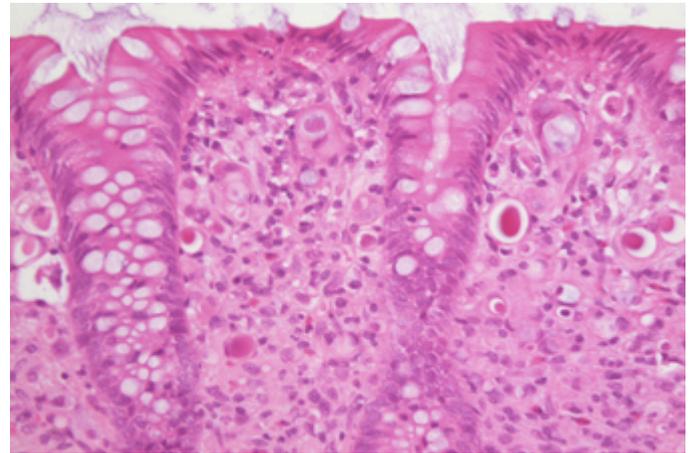
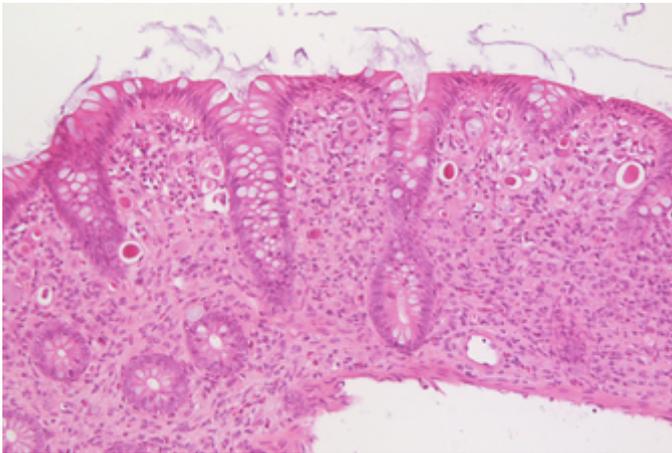
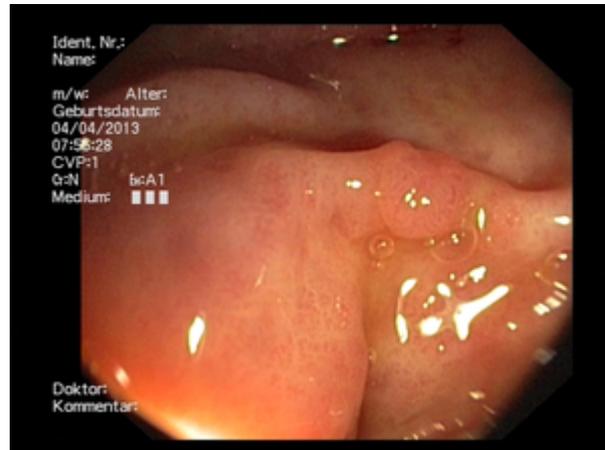
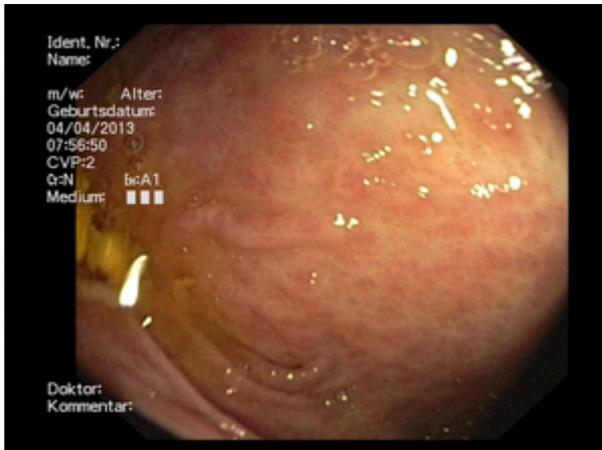
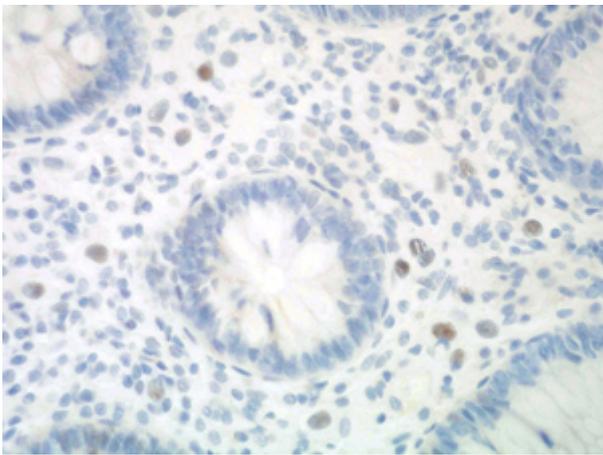


May 2015

Colonic biopsies from a 60-year-old female with diarrhoea and diffuse mucosal oedema.

What is your diagnosis?





Diagnosis:

Diffuse mucosal metastasis of lobular breast cancer.

Comment:

Endoscopy (Panels A-B) shows diffuse mucosal oedema with discrete nodularity. Between preserved crypts there is a diffuse infiltrate of atypical cells (Panels C-D), some with PAS-positive inclusions (Panel E), and without relevant immunoreaction. The atypical cells are visible in the H&E-stain, but the extent of the infiltration can be better appreciated in pankeratin (MNF) immunohistochemistry (Panel F). The tumour cells show nuclear oestrogen receptor expression (Panel G).

In the lower gastrointestinal tract, all investigated sites – terminal ileum, coecum, left and right colon – are involved. Although tiny polypoid lesions are seen upon endoscopy, there is no mass forming lesion. As in too many cases the relevant medical history was not submitted, neither to the endoscopist nor to the pathologist. In this case the patient experienced a lobular cancer of the breast (pT1c(2), pN0 (0/17), cM0, R0 (<0,1cm)) at the age of 43. Since then, she was clinically in complete remission.

Late metastases of carcinomas are well known, especially from small primaries, and from lobular breast cancer. While breast cancer NST use to metastasize preferably in the lungs, liver and bones, gastrointestinal metastasis of lobular cancer is not uncommon, involving the bowel as well as the peritoneum. Some of the metastases form masses, which may lead to obstruction and their detection by endoscopy. In the presented case the involvement was diffuse and resulted in diarrhoea.

For further reading:

- › Carcoforo P, Raiji MT, Langan RC, Lanzara S, Portinari M, Maestroni U, et al. Infiltrating Lobular Carcinoma of the Breast Presenting as Gastrointestinal Obstruction: A Mini Review. *Journal of Cancer*. 2012;3:328-32.
- › Matsuda I, Matsubara N, Aoyama N, Hamanaka M, Yamagishi D, Kuno T, et al. Metastatic lobular carcinoma of the breast masquerading as a primary rectal cancer. *World Journal of Surgical Oncology*. 2012;10:231.

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