



TITLE: LOOKS ARE DECEPTIVE

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Fistula in ano, one of the common conditions, which usually arises as a complication of incompletely drained perianal abscess. Our first case is a 73 year old male with complaints of **purulent discharge in the perianal region for a duration of 5 years**. Operated twice for fistula in ano 5 and 3 years ago but symptoms failed to resolve. On examination, external openings noted at 6, 8 and 10 'o' clock position, indurated with overhanging granulation tissue. Rectal examination revealed a growth arising from anorectal junction, extending for 5 centimeters upwards, confirmed by computed tomography abdomen. Colonoscopy guided biopsy revealed **infiltrating adenocarcinoma** which was congruent with the wedge biopsy taken from the fistulous tract. **Our second case is** a 60 year old male patient with complaints of **purulent discharge from the perianal region since 7 years**, with history of surgery for perianal abscess 7 years ago. Examination revealed external openings at 1, 2, 3 and 5'o' clock position with overhanging granulation tissue with mucous discharge. **Rectal and colonoscopic examinations was normal**. Wedge biopsy revealed it to be **mucinous adenocarcinoma**. Following tumour board consensus, both of them were sent for neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Systemic conditions like **tuberculosis and Crohn's disease** are commonly associated with fistula in ano. **Malignancy with implantation in a fistula** and a **primary malignancy arising in a fistula** are extremely rare presentations, with less than 50 cases being reported. **With a high index of suspicion, mandatory colonoscopies and guided biopsies for patients with chronic fistulae is of utmost importance.**

BIOGRAPHY:

Manasa. A has completed her MBBS from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, India and is currently in her final year of General Surgery residency in the prestigious Madras Medical College, Chennai, India, which is the third oldest medical college in India. She has been awarded the best paper award by the Association of Surgeons of India, Chennai city chapter. She actively participates in local surgical society meets, clinical audits, poster presentations and other academic presentations. She is known for her keen interest in medical research activities.

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Category: E-poster presentation

