




## Sinal do Pente no Diagnóstico Atempado na Doença de Crohn *The Comb Sign as a Fast Path for Crohn's Disease Diagnosis*

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**Palavras-chave:** Doença de Crohn/diagnóstico por imagem; Tomografia Computorizada.

**Keywords:** Crohn Disease/diagnostic imaging; Tomography, X-Ray Computed.

A previously healthy man in his 20s, presented to the emergency room with a 3-month history of asthenia. He denied other symptoms. On physical examination skin pallor, low body mass index (17.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and delayed sexual development were identified. Laboratory findings revealed hemoglobin of 11.6 g/dL and mean corpuscular volume of 70.0 fL. Remaining lab values were unremarkable. Abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan showed the comb sign (Figs. 1 and 2), leading to the suspicion of inflammatory bowel disease. Colonoscopy revealed an ileocecal valve ulcer, however the biopsy was unremarkable. The MR enterography performed did not reach the lesions.

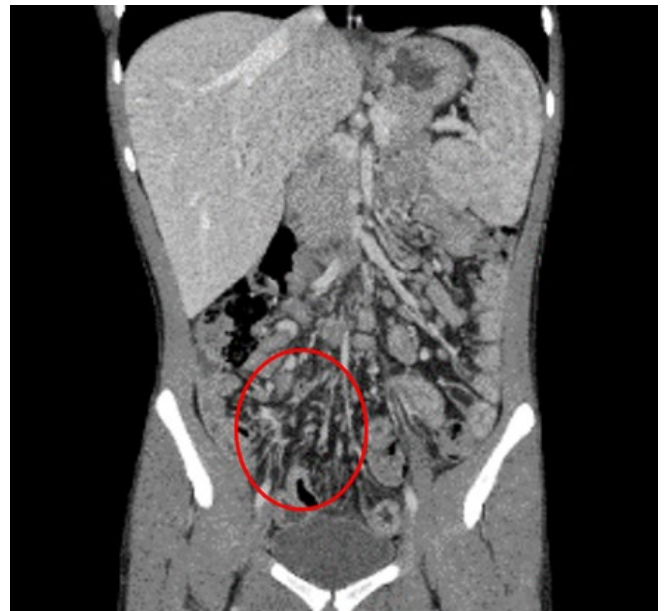
Fecal calprotectin was high (2531 mg/kg) and had positive antibodies anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* IgA (122.0U) and anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* IgG (113.4U).

Video capsule enteroscopy showed multiple jejunal ulcers. Diagnosis of Chron's disease (CD) was established, and he was successfully treated with oral budesonide.

CD is a chronic granulomatous inflammatory bowel disease that affects the digestive tract. Clinical presentation might range from gastrointestinal to non-specific symptoms, such as fatigue or weight loss,<sup>1</sup> making the diagnosis difficult. Mesenteric hypervascularity with vascular dilatation resembling the teeth of a comb<sup>1</sup> – the comb sign – in CT although not pathognomonic for CD, can be highly correlated with the endoscopic severity.<sup>2-4</sup> In our case, the comb sign was the key for the diagnosis and successful treatment. ■



**Figure 1:** Abdominal CT scan shows an increase in mesenteric vascularity resembling the teeth of a comb - Comb sign (red arrow).



**Figure 2:** A coronal view of the abdominal CT scan shows an increase in mesenteric vascularity resembling the teeth of a comb (red circle).

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### Declaração de Contribuição

CR – Elaboração do artigo, concepção, recolha de imagens e revisão da literatura

HR – Revisão da literatura e do artigo

SM – Revisão do artigo

Todos os autores aprovaram a versão final a ser publicada.

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### Contributorship Statement

CR – Preparation of the article, design, collection of images and literature review

HR – Literature review and article

SM – Article review

All authors approved the final draft.

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