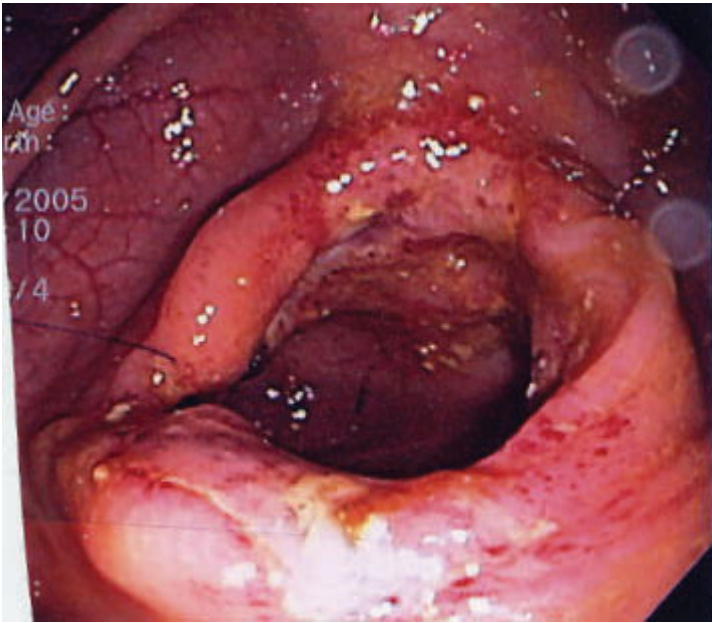


Question 37 – April 20

A 50-year-old woman has had a long history of medical problems including chronic abdominal pain, hypertension, obesity and obstructive pulmonary disease. She presents to the emergency room with acute right-sided abdominal pain, diarrhea and some bright red blood in the stools. She is admitted to hospital, treated with fluids and empiric antibiotics are given, though stool cultures are negative. Colonoscopy shows two segments of colitis in the ascending colon and cecum [FIGURE]. The most likely diagnosis is:



- A. *C. difficile* colitis
- B. Ischemic colitis
- C. Crohn's disease
- D. *Shigella* colitis

Answer: B

The diagnosis of ischemic colitis was confirmed by colon biopsy. Ischemia is characterized by location in “watershed” areas of vascular supply to the colon, typically at the splenic flexure, though right and transverse colon involvement can also be seen. Infection with *E. coli* 0157:H7 could mimic this. *Shigella* usually begins with rectal involvement.

Reference:

1. Green BT, Terdler DA. Ischemic colitis: A clinical review. *South Med J* 2005;98:2217-222.