Sir,

Meckel's diverticulum derives its name from the German anatomist Johann Friedrich Meckel who described the embryological and pathological features in 1808. Meckel's diverticulum is the most common congenital abnormality of the gastrointestinal tract, however, when symptomatic, it is often misdiagnosed at presentation.

A 55 years old male patient reported with abdomen pain and constipation since 4 days. There was history of melena since 10 days. Tachycardia was present. On abdominal examination, tenderness and guarding was present. X-ray showed emphysematous changes. X-ray abdomen showed multiple dilated loops and air fluid levels. Final diagnosis was kept as peritonitis with intestinal obstruction. Patient was explored and Meckel's diverticulum was found with a large perforation at its base with surrounding inflammation and fibrosis. Fecal material was coming out from the perforation site. Resection and primary anastomosis was accomplished. On histopathology, diagnosis came as inflammatory Meckel's diverticulitis. At 2 months follow-up, patient was doing well.

Meckel's diverticulum is a common congenital anomaly of the gastrointestinal tract which is a rare cause of serious complications in adults especially as perforation. It has an independent blood supply from a remnant of the vitelline artery, a branch of the superior mesenteric artery.

It is a congenital anomaly described by the rule of two's: found in approximately 2% of the general population, approximately 2 inches long, arising within 2 feet of the ileo-caecal valve, commonly affecting children under 2 years of age and occurring twice as often in men.

Complications of Meckel's diverticulum include haemorrhage, bowel obstruction, inflammation, and perforation. All of these complications can be challenging to diagnose because patients may present with non-specific symptoms, which produce a clinical picture that can mimic other more common gastrointestinal disorders. The initial differential diagnoses for this patient included inflammatory bowel disease, malignancy, and perforated appendicitis. The perforation of a Meckel's diverticulum may mimic acute appendicitis and present as an acute abdomen as in this case.

REFERENCES