Letter to the Editor / *Editöre Mektup*

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A Possible Cause That May Be Overlooked in the Diagnosis of Fever of Unknown Origin: Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Response to the Letter to the Editor

Nedeni Bilinmeyen Ateş Ayırıcı Tanısında Göz Ardı Edilebilen Bir Neden: Enflamatuvar Bağırsak Hastalıkları Adlı Editöre Mektuba Cevap

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Dear Editor,

First, we would like to thank you for your interest in our article and your valuable comments. In our study, we aimed to emphasize that inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) should be considered in the differential diagnosis of children presenting with fever of unknown origin (FUO).

There are several reasons why endoscopy was not performed in our study. First, invasive procedures are generally considered in the final stage of the diagnostic approach for NBA when a diagnosis cannot be made using non-invasive methods. In the literature, invasive tests are recommended in children with NBA only in selected cases when there is diagnostic uncertainty (1,2).

Our study is a retrospective analysis, and endoscopic procedures were planned based on the physician's clinical suspicion, the severity of the patient's symptoms, and acute conditions. As stated in the literature, endoscopy is recommended in cases supported by alarming findings such as persistent abdominal pain, bloody stools, and growth retardation (3,4). Although some non-specific findings such as abdominal pain and anemia were observed in our study, these findings were not considered to be strong enough to suggest IBD and did not constitute a specific finding that would require endoscopy.

In conclusion, endoscopy was not performed frequently in our study due to the lack of clinical and laboratory findings sufficient to support the suspicion of IBD, the risks of invasive procedures, and the limitations of retrospective data collection. Your comment is valuable in highlighting the importance of IBD in the differential diagnosis of NBA, and we believe that awareness in this area should be increased.

Best regards

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