her to the hospital.

D-lactic acidosis should be considered in patients with a history of abdominal surgery resulting in short-bowel syndrome or malabsorption and who present with a high anion gap metabolic acidosis and neuropsychiatric manifestations. Our patient was diagnosed with anion gap metabolic acidosis by other physicians, but the cause was not discovered until a more elaborate history was obtained. As we described, symptoms can be consider-

ably delayed, and physicians should be aware of such clinical presentations, since a remote surgical history may be the key to diagnosing a patient's medical condition. This is even more relevant as more and more patients have gastrointestinal bypass surgery for obesity and can present many years later. Interestingly, to our knowledge, the onset of symptoms approximately 30 years after intestinal surgery has not been reported previously.

REFERENCES

- Gabow PA. Disorders associated with an altered anion gap. Kidney Int 1985; 27:472–483.
- 2. Rose BD. Diuretics. Kidney Int 1991; 39:336-352.
- Winter SD, Pearson JR, Gabow PA, Schultz AL, Lepoff RB.
 The fall of the serum anion gap. Arch Intern Med 1990;
 150:311–313.
- Perez GO, Oster JR, Rogers A. Acid-base disturbances in gastrointestinal disease. Dig Dis Sci 1987; 32:1033–1043.
- Cieza J, Sovero Y, Estremadoyro L, Dumler F. Electrolyte disturbances in elderly patients with severe diarrhea due to cholera. J Am Soc Nephrol 1995; 6:1463–1467.
- Wang F, Butler T, Rabbani GH, Jones PK. The acidosis of cholera. Contributions of hyperproteinemia, lactic acidemia, and hyperphosphatemia to an increased serum anion gap. N Engl J Med 1986; 315:1591–1595.
- Umpierrez GE, DiGirolamo M, Tuvlin JA. Differences in metabolism and hormonal milieu in diabetic- and alcoholic- induced ketoacidosis. J Crit Care 2000; 15:52–59.
- Kreisberg RA. Lactate homeostasis and lactic acidosis. Ann Intern Med 1980; 92(2 Pt 1):227–237.
- 9. Madias NE. Lactic acidosis. Kidney Int 1986; 29:752-774.
- Oh MS, Uribarri J, Carroll HJ. Electrolyte case vignette: a case of unusual organic acidosis. Am J Kidney Dis 1988; 11:80–82.
- Stolberg L, Rolfe R, Gitlin N, et al. D-Lactic acidosis due to abnormal gut flora: diagnosis and treatment of two cases. N Engl J Med 1982; 306:1344–1348.
- Fulop M, Horowitz M, Aberman A, Jaffe ER. Lactic acidosis in pulmonary edema due to left ventricular failure. Ann Intern Med 1973; 79:180–186.
- Weil MH, Afifi AA. Experimental and clinical studies on lactate and pyruvate as indicators of the severity of acute circulatory failure (shock). Circulation 1970; 41:989–1001.
- Halperin ML, Kamel KS. D-lactic acidosis: turning sugar into acids in the gastrointestinal tract. Kidney Int 1996; 49:1–8.
- 15. Uribarri J, Oh MS, Carroll HJ. D-lactic acidosis. A review of

- clinical presentation, biochemical features, and pathophysiologic mechanisms. Medicine (Baltimore) 1998; 77:73–82.
- Bongaerts G, Tolboom J, Naber T, Bakkeren J, Severijnen R, Willems H. D-lactic acidemia and aciduria in pediatric and adult patients with short bowel syndrome. Clin Chem 1995; 41:107–110.
- Hudson M, Pocknee R, Mowat NA. D-lactic acidosis in short bowel syndrome—an examination of possible mechanisms. Q J Med 1990; 74:157–163.
- Hove H, Mortensen PB. Colonic lactate metabolism and D-lactic acidosis. Dig Dis Sci 1995: 40:320–330.
- Day AS, Abbott GD. D-lactic acidosis in short bowel syndrome. N Z Med J 1999; 112:277–278.
- Vella A, Farrugia G. D-lactic acidosis: pathologic consequence of saprophytism. Mayo Clin Proc 1998; 73:451–456.
- Awata H, Endo F, Tanoue A, Kitano A, Matsuda I.
 Characterization of a point mutation in the pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 alpha gene from two boys with primary lactic acidaemia. J Inherit Metab Dis 1994; 17:189–195.
- Naito E, Ito M, Yokota I, Matsuda J, Yara A, Kuroda Y. Pyruvate dehydrogenase deficiency caused by a fournucleotide insertion in the E1 alpha subunit gene. Hum Mol Genet 1994; 3:1193–1194.
- Mayne AJ, Handy DJ, Preece MA, George RH, Booth IW. Dietary management of D-lactic acidosis in short bowel syndrome. Arch Dis Child 1990; 65:229–231.
- Uchida H, Yamamoto H, Kisaki Y, Fujino J, Ishimaru Y, Ikeda H. D-lactic acidosis in short-bowel syndrome managed with antibiotics and probiotics. J Pediatr Surg 2004; 39:634–636.

ADDRESS: Ashish Aneja, MD, General Internal Medicine, S70, Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195; email anejaa@ccf.org.

CORRECTION

Colon cancer screening

(APRIL 2007)

In the article "At what age should we discontinue colon cancer screening in the elderly?" by Rachelle Losey, MD, and Barbara J. Messinger-Rapport, MD, PhD, on pages 269

through 272 in the April 2007 issue, the e-mail address we listed for Dr. Messinger-Rapport on page 272 was wrong. Her correct e-mail address is rapporb@ccf.org.