Acute Lower GI Bleed due to a Bleeding Diverticulum in the Right Colon

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Clinical History:

- 69 yo female on blood thinners, presenting with bright red blood per rectum and abdominal cramping. The patient was hemodynamically stable although there was a 3 gram drop in the hemoglobin level.
- CT Angiography of the abdomen and pelvis was performed.
On noncontrast images, there is hyperdense debris consistent with blood in the dependent portion of the right colon. There is colonic diverticulosis.

On early arterial phase images, there is focal enhancement in the right colon consistent with active contrast extravasation in the region where there was blood on noncontrast images.

On portal venous phase images, the active contrast extravasation in the right colon changes in shape, is increased in size and lower in density compared to the early arterial phase.
Teaching Points:

- Noncontrast images are useful to evaluate for blood in the bowel lumen. The density of the intraluminal hemorrhage may be the highest in the region of active bleeding.
- Noncontrast images are also useful to determine if a hyperdense focus in the bowel on post contrast images is abnormal enhancement rather than hyperdense intraluminal debris.
- On postcontrast images, active extravasation will commonly change in shape and density on the second post contrast phase compared to the first phase.
References


