CASE REPORT OF ANAL PICKING AND RECTAL ULCERATION IN A PATIENT WITH PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME. A Serna IV, and T Qaseem, Division of Gastroenterology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.

Prader-Willi syndrome is a rare genetic disorder with varied behavioral manifestations such as mental retardation, obsessive-compulsive personality, tendency to temper tantrums, chronic skin picking and self-mutilation.

Our patient is a 30-year old Native American female with Prader-Willi syndrome presenting with loose bloody stools. She admitted to chronic deep rectal manipulation, chronic anal picking but denied abdominal discomfort, frank diarrhea or weight loss.

Examination revealed that patient was afebrile and normotensive. Abdomen was soft non-tender, non-distended with normoactive bowel sounds. Rectal exam revealed three small skin tags, but there were no visible external ulcerations. Labs showed a HCT of 41 and WBC within normal limits. Patient was taken for sigmoidoscopy, which showed a deep rectal ulcer. Biopsies revealed colitis with areas of full thickness ulceration. Subsequently stool studies demonstrated negative fecal leukocytes, ova and parasites and C. difficile. Patient was referred for behavioral therapy and was encouraged to limit her rectal manipulation.

Over the next 2 years, patient has only had moderate success with treatment secondary to continued anal manipulation.

Our case report is only the second reported case of rectal ulceration secondary to chronic anal picking in a patient with Prader-Willi syndrome. It is important to recognize this, albeit rare, association to prevent misdiagnosis and institute appropriate behavioral therapy.