Histoacryl injection for treatment of varices in the ascending colon

Mafalda Sousa, Iolanda Ribeiro, Luísa Proença, Joana Silva, Ana Ponte, Jaime Rodrigues

Department of Gastroenterology, Centro Hospitalar de Vila Nova de Gaia e Espinho, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

A 50-year-old man with alcoholic liver cirrhosis was admitted to our emergency department with massive hematochezia and hypovolemic shock. On admission, laboratory data included hemoglobin 3.1 g/dL, hematocrit 9.9%, platelet count $81 \times 10^9/L$, lactates 13.9 mmol/L, and international normalized ratio 1.29. Resuscitation was initiated with intravenous fluids and transfusion of 4 units of packed red blood cells. Terlipressin 2 mg and ceftriaxone 1 g were administered.

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy revealed small esophageal varices with no evidence of recent bleeding. After oral preparation, total colonoscopy was performed, which showed markedly dilated, tortuous veins with a visible fibrin plug in the ascending colon, indicative of colonic varix with recent bleeding (● Fig. 1 a); there was no blood in the colon. N-butyl-2-cyanoacrylate (Histoacryl; B. Braun, Melsungen, Germany) was injected into the varix, resulting in initial active spurting bleeding from the site of the fibrin plug and from the site of injection (● Fig. 1 b), which resolved after subsequent injections. In total, 2 mL of Histoacryl was injected (● Fig. 1 c, ● Video 1).

The patient had no recurrent bleeding and hemoglobin levels remained stable. He was discharged 7 days later with nonselective beta blocker medication.

Esophageal varices are a common cause of gastrointestinal bleeding in patients with

portal hypertension, but ectopic varices are extremely rare (between 1% and 5% of all variceal bleeding), especially in the ascending colon [1,2]. Because of the infrequency with which bleeding ectopic varices present, the ideal therapeutic intervention is unknown [3,4]. This is the first report of successful endoscopic hemostasis with injection of N-butyl-2-cyanoacrylate in bleeding ascending colonic varices.

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Competing interests: None

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Corresponding author

Mafalda Sousa, MD
 Department of Gastroenterology
 Centro Hospitalar de Vila Nova de Gaia e Espinho
 Rua Conceição Fernandes
 4424-502 Vila Nova de Gaia
 Portugal
 Fax: +351-227-830209
mafalda_m_p_sousa@hotmail.com

Fig. 1 Histoacryl injection for treatment of varices in the ascending colon. **a** Ascending colonic varix with visible fibrin plug. **b** Active spurting bleeding from the site of the fibrin plug and from the site of needle injection with N-butyl-2-cyanoacrylate. **c** Colonic varix after hemostasis with 2 mL of injected N-butyl-2-cyanoacrylate.