Endoscopic removal of tubulovillous adenoma with high grade focal dysplasia in the distal common bile duct

An 80-year-old woman with pluripathology was admitted with cholangitis. A computed tomography scan showed a dilated common bile duct (CBD) and a possible distal choledocholithiasis. An endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography was performed and the duct was swept with a balloon, revealing a polypoid lesion of adenomatous appearance through the papilla. The pathology confirmed a tubulo-villous adenoma with high grade focal dysplasia.

An endoscopic ultrasound revealed the presence of a 10 × 8 mm polyp in the CBD (Fig. 1). As the patient was a high risk surgical candidate, endoscopic treatment was indicated in accordance with a multidisciplinary committee. The papilla was reached using the duodenoscope and a papilloplasty was performed with a 12-mm pneumatic balloon (Video 1). With the help of the Fogarty balloon and a biopsy forceps, the polyp was tractioned toward the duodenum and polypectomy was performed using a pediatric hot snare (Fig. 2). Then, a fulguration soft coagulation was done and a fully covered self-expanding metallic biliary stent was placed.

After a 2-month follow-up period, a baby scope cholangioscopy showed no macroscopic lesion after removing the stent. In addition, fulguration with argon beam was applied to the polypectomy site. In the next follow-up at 6 months, a baby scope cholangioscopy showed no remaining polyp (Fig. 3). Pathology confirmed the absence of adenoma at 2 and 6 months. No complications were detected during follow-up.

Adenomas of the extrahepatic bile duct are uncommon benign neoplasms with an unknown malignant potential [1–3]. Surgery is the current treatment [1–3], with only five published cases of successful endoscopic treatment in nonsurgical patients [2]. In the current case, the key to achieving technical success was good visualization through the papilla (papilloplasty + stent) and the use of a pediatric polypectomy snare with the help of the balloon.

Fig. 1 Initial imaging. a Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography showed a filling defect at the distal common bile duct. b An endoscopic ultrasound revealed the presence of a 10 × 8 mm polyp.

Fig. 2 Removal of the polyp. a Using a Fogarty balloon, the polyp was tractioned toward the duodenum. b Polypectomy was performed using a pediatric hot snare.

Fig. 3 No remaining polyp was seen with a baby scope cholangioscopy at the 6-month follow-up visit. Pathology confirmed the absence of adenoma at 2 and 6 months.
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Competing interests

None

The authors

Rogger Alvaro Bendezú-García1, 2, Xavier Andújar-Murcia1, 3, Carme Loras1, 3
1 Department of Gastroenterology, Hospital Universitari Mútua Terrassa, Fundació per la Recerca Mútua Terrassa, Terrassa, Catalonia, Spain
2 Department of Gastroenterology, Hospital Universitari General de Catalunya, Catalonia, Spain
3 Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Enfermedades Hepáticas y Digestivas (CIBERehd), Spain

Corresponding author

Carme Loras, MD, PhD
Department of Gastroenterology, Endoscopy Unit, Hospital Universitari Mútua Terrassa, Universitat de Barcelona, Plaça Dr Robert nº 5, 08221 Terrassa, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain
Fax: +34-93-7365043
cloras@mutuaterrassa.cat

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