Gastrointestinal bleeding after endoscopic ultrasound-guided gallbladder drainage

Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided gallbladder drainage (EGBD) is gaining popularity as an option for the treatment of acute cholecystitis in patients who would be considered high risk for cholecystectomy [1]. EGBD has been shown to be associated with comparable technical and clinical success rates to percutaneous cholecystostomy, whilst carrying a 4.8%–22% risk of adverse events, including pneumoperitoneum, bile leak, and stent migration [2–5]. Stent-induced bleeding after EGBD is however uncommon.

A 95-year-old man on dabigatran with multiple comorbidities suffered from acute cholecystitis. As he was high risk for cholecystectomy, EGBD was performed. A lumen-apposing metal stent (LAMS; Spaxus, Taewoong Medical Corporation, South Korea) and a 3-cm double-pigtail stent were inserted for gallbladder drainage. He was scheduled for cholecystoscopy and stone removal 1 month later. On cholecystoscopy, a 2-cm gallstone was noted at Hartmann’s pouch but could not be removed, so the LAMS was left in situ as a long-term stent.

After 4 months, he was admitted with hematemesis and tarry stools; his hemoglobin had dropped to 5.9 g/dL. An urgent endoscopy was performed and it was found that his stomach was filled with blood clots (▶Video 1). The LAMS remained in situ at the inferoposterior wall of the first part of the duodenum,
but it had caused erosion with ulceration and bleeding (▶ Fig. 1). The stent was re-
moved and exchanged for a double-pig-
tail stent to maintain drainage of the
gallbladder (▶ Fig. 2). Hemostatic treat-
ment was not required. The patient’s
dabigatran was stopped and was not
restarted. His condition stabilized and
he was discharged 6 days later.
Stent-induced gastrointestinal bleeding has to be considered in post-EGBD pa-
tients with anemia or signs of gastroin-
testinal bleeding. Further studies on the
safety of anticoagulant use in patients
planned for long-term stenting are re-
quired.

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Competing interests

Prof. Anthony Y. B. Teoh is a consultant for
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