Duodenal intramural hematoma and delayed perforation: rare but fatal complication of endoscopic therapy for a bleeding duodenal ulcer

A 57-year-old woman was admitted with drug-induced hepatitis. An episode of tarry stool passage occurred on the third day in hospital and was treated using a proton pump inhibitor. The bleeding reoccurred on the fourteenth day and upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed an actively bleeding duodenal ulcer (Fig. 1). Initial hemostasis was achieved with an injection of diluted epinephrine and application of two hemoclips. The bleeding reoccurred on the fifteenth day and repeat endoscopy revealed a duodenal intramural hematoma (DIH) with a severe luminal obstruction (Fig. 2), and conservative management was started. One week later, the patient experienced a sudden onset of upper abdominal pain. A repeat CT scan revealed duodenal perforation (Fig. 3), which was surgically repaired. However, on day 56 in hospital, the patient died of postoperative complications.

DIH is a rare complication of endoscopy. Rohrer et al. [1] reported that five of 227 patients developed DIH following endoscopic therapy for bleeding peptic ulcers. This provisional diagnosis was based on an abdominal CT scan indicating the presence of a duodenal mass with density (Hounsfield units) consistent with blood serum. The diagnosis was confirmed by endoscopy. The management of DIH typically involves a conservative regimen, except for patients with bowel perforations associated with abdominal trauma. The symptoms usually resolve in 10–15 days, and drainage is required only if patients have prolonged obstructive symptoms [2, 3]. Serious complications of DIH, such as pancreatitis, are rare [4, 5]. To our knowledge, our patient is the first case of delayed ulcer perforation in a DIH leading to emergency surgical treatment to be reported in the literature.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CPL_1AH_2AC

**References**


**Bibliography**


Endoscopy 2009; 41: E119

© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

**Corresponding author**

Y. Y. Chen, MD

Changhua Christian Medical Center
135 Nanhsiao Street
Changhua 500
Taiwan
Fax: +886-4-7228289
27716@ccch.org.tw

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CPL_1AH_2AC

Yen HH, Chen YY. Duodenal intramural hematoma and delayed perforation... Endoscopy 2009; 41: E119