Transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) is recommended for patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC); however, it is not a risk-free procedure and biloma may occur as a complication [1].

A 45-year-old man, following liver transplantation, presented with recurrent HCC in the caudate lobe, close to the caval vein, and was treated by TACE. Subsequently, the patient was admitted for abdominal pain and fever. Computed tomography (CT)-guided percutaneous cholangiography confirmed the diagnosis of infected biloma (Figs. 1, 2). During the following weeks there was abundant drainage, despite both external drainage and endoscopic treatment. It was decided to attempt direct closure of the fistula with a choledochoscope-assisted procedure. Briefly, an inverse rendezvous procedure was successfully carried out, allowing the retrieval of the endoscopic guide wire, followed by insertion of a percutaneous wire-guided choledochoscope (Polyscope, Lumenis Inc., Santa Clara, California, USA) into the biloma. An angiographic introducer was inserted beside the choledochoscope and a 19-G needle was inserted in the introducer. The choledochoscopic approach allowed multiple fibrin glue injections (Tissucol, Baxter Healthcare, Deerfield, Illinois, USA) around the distal opening of the peripheral bile duct, for a total volume of 3 mL (Fig. 3–5). A CT scan taken after a few days showed absence of fluid in the biloma, confirming healing of the biliary fistula (Fig. 6).
Conservative management of biloma allows resolution in more than 80% of cases [2–4]. However, cases resistant to well-established conservative strategies still represent a challenge. To our knowledge, this is the first report of a novel technique in the management of hepatic biloma. Use of fibrin glue injection to seal a bile leak could represent an indication for therapeutic choledochoscopy, although it requires confirmation through application in further patients.

References
1 Sakamoto I, Aso N, Nagaoki K et al. Complications associated with transcatheter arterial embolization for hepatic tumors. Radiographics 1998; 18: 605–619

Bibliography
Endoscopy 2011; 43: E238–E239
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
V. Cennamo
Division of Gastroenterology
Department of Digestive Diseases and Internal Medicine
S. Orsola-Malpighi General and University Hospital
40138 Bologna
Italy
Fax: +39-51-6363338
cennamov@yahoo.it

Video 1
Choledochoscope-assisted percutaneous fibrin glue sealing of bile leak complicating transarterial chemoembolization of recurrent hepatocellular carcinoma after liver transplantation.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AR_2AG

Competing interests: None