A 22-year-old woman was referred to our hospital for intensifying epigastric pain, 3 days after giving birth. The last stage of labor had been assisted by manual compression of the uterus, during which the patient had a painful, tearing sensation in the upper abdomen. Initial laboratory findings were as follows: hemoglobin 91 g/L, white blood cell count 21500/µL, and amylase 567 IU/L. Abdominal computed tomography (CT) revealed near-total rupture of the pancreas (Fig. 1).

The patient underwent endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, and a leak from the main duct of pancreas was noted (Fig. 2). The distal portion of the pancreatic duct and the rupture site were dilated using a 4mm/4cm balloon, followed by placement of a 12cm/5Fr stent (Fig. 3). Subsequently, an ultrasound-guided drain was inserted into the upper abdomen. The patient was kept on parental nutrition and somatostatin therapy for 7 days. Due to presence of pleural effusion a drain was introduced into the left pleural cavity. The patient developed paralytic ileus, which was treated conservatively. At 2 days following stent placement, a follow-up abdominal CT revealed no complications (Fig. 4). The patient was discharged 12 days after admission. No complications were evident on abdominal magnetic resonance imaging at 2 months and the stent was removed after 3 months. At 6 months, secretin-stimulated magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography revealed no pathology (Fig. 5) and the patient had fully recovered.

The most important factor determining the outcome of pancreatic injuries is ductal integrity [1, 2]. Distal lacerations with ductal involvement, grade III according to the pancreas Organ Injury Scale [3], are traditionally treated with resection [4]. In the present patient, the diagnosis was made after 3 days. Delay is associated with increased morbidity and complication rate. However, external drainage, pancreatic stenting, and otherwise conservative treatment led to complete recovery in the present case.
Fig. 4 Follow-up computed tomography (CT) image 2 days after the placement of the stent.

Fig. 5 Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography showing no ductal abnormalities or fluid collections.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AZ_2AM

Competing interests: None

J. Khan, J. Ylenen, M. Victorzon
Department of Surgery, Vaasa Central Hospital, Vaasa, Finland

References

Bibliography
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0031-1291566
Endoscopy 2012; 44: E65–E66
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
J. Khan
Department of Surgery
Vaasa Central Hospital
Hietalahdenkatu 2 – 4
65130 Vaasa
Finland
Fax: +358-06-3231528
jahangir.khan@uta.fi