Video capsule endoscopy findings in Ehlers–Danlos syndrome with recurrent gastrointestinal bleeding

A man in his forties with Ehlers–Danlos syndrome (classic type) was admitted to our hospital because of melena and dizziness. His past history included two episodes of gastrointestinal bleeding of unknown origin. Upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed a diverticulum of the esophagus and multiple diverticula in the sigmoid colon (Fig. 1) but no evidence of recent bleeding. Colonoscopy also revealed several erosions in the terminal ileum (Fig. 2). We therefore carried out video capsule endoscopy, which revealed multiple diverticula with adjacent erosions in the distal jejunum (Video 1), and numerous erosions in most of the ileum (Fig. 3). On the basis of these findings, the most likely origin of the bleeding was the small intestine.

Ehlers–Danlos syndrome is a rare inherited connective tissue disorder with hypermobile joints, hyperextensive skin, and fragile tissues; diverticulum formation in the gastrointestinal tract due to the fragility of the connective tissues has been reported [1,2]. One of the uncommon but potentially fatal complications of Ehlers–Danlos syndrome is gastrointestinal bleeding [3], but the focus of the bleeding has not yet been elucidated. The present case suggests that the small intestine is an important candidate bleeding site in Ehlers–Danlos syndrome. Some patients with Ehlers–Danlos syndrome (vascular type) require close medical follow-up to prevent sudden death by organ rupture at a young age. Thus, we believe that Ehlers–Danlos syndrome should be considered in the differential diagnosis when a clinician encounters the unusual capsule endoscopic finding of multiple diverticula with erosions in the small intestine. The findings in our present patient also suggest that the focus of small-intestinal bleeding in Ehlers–Danlos syndrome is not the diverticula but the multiple erosions in the small intestine.

Competing interests: None

H. Kishikawa1, J. Nishida1, S. Takarabe1, K. Arahata1, A. Ito1, J. Miyoshi1, S. Kaida1, T. Hibi2
1 Department of Gastroenterology, Tokyo Dental College, Ichikawa General Hospital, Chiba, Japan
2 Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

References

Bibliography
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0032-1325774
Endoscopy 2012; 44: E416
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
H. Kishikawa
Department of Gastroenterology
Ichikawa General Hospital
Tokyo Dental College
5-11-13 Sugano Ichikawa
Chiba 272-8513
Japan
Fax: +81-47-3254456
kisikawa@tdc.ac.jp

Kishikawa H et al. Video capsule endoscopy findings in Ehlers–Danlos syndrome ... Endoscopy 2012; 44: E416