Acute suppurative pancreatic ductitis associated with pancreatic duct obstruction

A 70-year-old man with abdominal pain and high fever was referred to our hospital because of suspected branch duct intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm and pancreatolithiasis. Laboratory results showed a total bilirubin of 4.7 mg/dL, slight elevation in the serum pancreatic enzyme level and marked elevation in the serum C-reactive protein level and white blood cell count. Plain computed tomography (CT) showed mild swelling of the pancreas and a 10-mm calcified stone in the head of the pancreas (Fig. 1). Due to the presence of obstructive cholangitis and pancreatitis, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography was carried out for drainage. When a catheter was inserted in the papilla of Vater, there was discharge of a large amount of pus mixed with pancreatic juice (Fig. 2). The pancreatic juice was purulent (Fig. 3, left tube), but the bile was normal (right tube).

Weinman [1] reported the first case of ASPD characterized by purulent discharge. Acute suppurative cholangitis due to biliary ductal obstruction is a common disease, but there have been only a few reported cases of ASPD [2,3]. Drainage of the pancreatic duct is quite effective for relief of ASPD. Therefore an endoscopist should keep in mind the possibility of ASPD in cases suspected of having suppurative cholangitis.

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Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan

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Corresponding author

T. Takehara, MD, PhD
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Clinical Research Building Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine 2-2 Yamadaoka, Suita Osaka 565-0871 Japan
Fax: +81-6-6879-3629
takehara@gh.med.osaka-u.ac.jp