Endoscopic diagnosis and treatment of a giant duodenal lipoma presenting with gastrointestinal bleeding

A 66-year-old man presented with fatigue and acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding (hemoglobin 92 g/L). He had melena but no signs of hematemesis. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed a 35 × 15-mm large polypoid lesion with multiple ulcerations in the second part of the duodenum (Fig. 1). No biopsy samples were taken due to the risk of bleeding. The diagnosis was unclear and the patient underwent endoscopic ultrasound, which demonstrated a hyperechoic lesion measuring 11 × 19 mm in diameter in the submucosa in the duodenal wall with intact muscularis propria (Fig. 2), suggestive of a lipoma. A subsequent capsule endoscopy excluded distal causes of bleeding in the small intestine. Next, the lesion was removed endoscopically using an endoloop and snare without any complication (Fig. 3). The resected lesion exhibited multiple ulcerated areas (Fig. 4). Histological examination demonstrated a duodenal lipoma with large blood vessels in contact with these ulcerated areas (Fig. 5).

Duodenal lipomas are extremely rare and constitute only one in 600 benign tumors of the gastrointestinal tract [1]. Duodenal lipomas are usually asymptomatic but larger ones can, in rare cases, cause abdominal pain, intestinal obstruction, or hemorrhage [2, 3]. Symptomatic duodenal lipomas should be removed. The current recommendation is endoscopic excision, unless this is technically difficult and warrants surgical excision. Nonetheless, this unusual case with a duodenal lipoma causing upper gastrointestinal bleeding underlines the clinical importance of endoscopic ultrasound in the workup of patients with unclear submucosal lesions in the gastrointestinal tract.

Fig. 1 Endoscopic view of a 3-cm long polypoid lesion with multiple ulcerations in the second part of the duodenum in a 66-year-old man with fatigue and acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

Fig. 2 Endoscopic ultrasound showing a hyperechoic lesion (11 × 19 mm) originating from the submucosa in the duodenal wall.

Fig. 3 a The lesion was removed using an endoloop and snare (endocut mode effect 2 and forced coagulation effect 2, 30 W, VIO 300 D; ERBE Elektromedizin, Tubingen, Germany). b The resection site 24 hours after polypectomy.

Fig. 4 The resected specimen showing multiple ulcerated areas.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AB_2AZ

Competing interests: None

Henrik Thorlacius1, Håkan Weiber1, Otto Ljungberg2, Jörgen Nielsen3, Ervin Toth3

1 Section of Surgery, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Skåne University Hospital, Lund University, Malmö, Sweden
2 Section of Pathology, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Skåne University Hospital, Lund University, Malmö, Sweden
3 Section of Gastroenterology, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Skåne University Hospital, Lund University, Malmö, Sweden
Fig. 5  Histological section from the lesion showing adipose cells compatible with duodenal lipoma and large blood vessels in contact with the ulceration (arrow).

References

Bibliography
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0033-1344825
Endoscopy 2013; 45: E385 – E386  © Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Henrik Thorlacius
Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö
Section of Surgery
Skåne University Hospital
Lund University
S-205 02 Malmö
Sweden
Fax: 46-40-336207
henrik.thorlacius@med.lu.se