Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder of the ileum diagnosed by double-balloon enteroscopy

Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD) is a common life-threatening complication after solid-organ transplantation that is mostly related to Epstein–Barr virus (EBV) infection [1]. PTLD occurs in 6.2% of lung transplants, 5.2% of kidney and pancreas transplants, 2% of heart transplants, and 1.4% of liver transplants [2]. Although around 15% of patients present as an emergency with intestinal perforation [3], there are only a few reports of cases in which PTLD lesions in the small intestine have been observed endoscopically. We report a case of PTLD involving the ileum that occurred 11 months after heart transplantation and was detected during double-balloon enteroscopy (DBE).

A 49-year-old man who had undergone a heart transplant 11 months previously and was receiving 10 mg tacrolimus, 2.5 mg everolimus, and 5 mg prednisolone per day was admitted to our hospital because of high fever and passage of a tarry stool. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) showed an ulcer in the posterior wall of the stomach (later histological diagnosis was nonspecific); multiple ulcers detected in the ileum by double-balloon enteroscopy (DBE).

Treatment was started with fasting and total parenteral nutrition, but his condition remained unchanged. After a month, he complained of sudden severe abdominal pain, which was caused by perforation of the ileal ulcers, and he underwent emergent segmental ileal resection. Pathological examination of the resection specimen revealed a diagnosis of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma caused by PTLD.

There have been few reported cases of PTLD-related ileal lesions being diagnosed by endoscopy. Nevertheless, the possibility of PTLD must be considered when multiple ileal ulcers are observed after organ transplantation.

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Seiichi Tawara, Shinichiro Shinzaki, Tsutomu Nishida, Motohiko Kato, Satoshi Hiyama, Takahiro Inoue, Hideki Iijima, Masahiko Tsujii, Tetsuo Takehara

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

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Corresponding author

Seiichi Tawara, MD
Osaka University – Gastroenterology and Hepatology
2-2, Yamadaoka Suita
Osaka 5650871
Japan
Fax: +81-66-8793629
twr@gh.med.osaka-u.ac.jp