Endoscopic repair of a massive postoperative pancreatic juice leak through the bile duct stump due to pancreatobiliary maljunction

A 55-year-old woman underwent supra-pancreatic resection of a large choledochal cyst, Todani type IVA, associated with pancreatobiliary maljunction (PBMJ), Komi type IIb. On the first postoperative day, a large amount (500–600 mL) of an amylase and lipase-rich secretion was noted to be draining out of the Jackson-Pratt drain. An endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) was performed to evaluate the pancreatobiliary anatomy, which confirmed the PBMJ. Pancreatic duct sphincterotomy was performed and followed by insertion of a 7-Fr pancreatic plastic stent. Despite this therapy, there was persistent drainage of pancreatic enzyme-rich juice (500 mL) through the Jackson-Pratt drain. A repeat ERCP clearly demonstrated the PBMJ and evidence of ongoing leakage. Therefore, a biliary sphincterotomy was performed. Close endoscopic inspection after the sphincterotomy clearly demonstrated the opening of the pancreatic duct, which had been previously stented, and the wide entrance to the common bile duct. With no sphincters to cause resistance, the pancreatic juice was able to flow freely through the common channel into the duodenum, without regurgitating through the PBMJ into the bile duct stump, and drainage of pancreatic juice through the Jackson-Pratt drain stopped within 24 hours.

Postoperative pancreatic juice leaks are not uncommon after pancreatic surgery. These usually occur because of pancreatic parenchymal injury, transmural burn, dissection or transection of the pancreatic duct, or from the pancreatojejunostomy. However, pancreatic juice leaks in the absence of injury to the pancreas or the pancreatic duct are extremely rare. Our case is interesting as it shows that a “pancreatic duct” leak can occur through the bile duct stump in the absence of injury to the pancreatic duct or parenchyma, as a result of a PBMJ. Endoscopic therapy consisted of sphincterotomy of both the pancreatic and bile duct sphincters, along with pancreatic duct stenting. Once the bile duct sphincter had been incised, the leak resolved within 2 weeks. Knowledge of this anatomical variant based on the Komi classification is important when dealing with suspected postoperative injury to the pancreas and/or pancreatic duct.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AR_2AI

Competing interests: None

Claudia Diaz-Tobar1, Awad El-Ashry2, John D. Christein2, Klaus Mönkemüller1

1 Basil I. Hirschowitz Endoscopic Center of Excellence, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Alabama, USA
2 Department of Surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Alabama, USA

Acknowledgment

Dr. Diaz-Tobar performed this work during her “Boston Scientific Visiting Fellowship” at the Basil I. Hirschowitz Center of Endoscopic Excellence, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA. Mr. Jose Diaz designed and created the graphic.
Fig. 2  Schematic showing the classification of pancreaticobiliary maljunction (PBMJ), as proposed by Komi. Ap, accessory pancreatic duct; Ch, common channel; Cch, common channel; Ch, choledochal cyst; D, duodenum; P, pancreatic duct; Vp, ventral pancreatic duct.

References

Bibliography
DOI http://dx.doi.org/
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E165–E166
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Klaus Mönkemüller, MD, PhD
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Basil I. Hirschowitz Endoscopic Center of Excellence
Endoscopy Unit, JT 664
619 19th Street S
Birmingham
AL 35249
USA
Fax: +1-205-934-1537
klaus1@uab.edu