Endoscopic ultrasound-guided tattooing of a retroesophageal parathyroid adenoma

Primary hyperthyroidism (PHPT) results from an ectopic adenoma located in a retroesophageal space in about 3% of cases [1]. In these patients, parathyroidectomy is a challenge even for skilled surgeons due to difficulty in identifying the lesion in a very limited operating space between the cervical and thoracic regions. Preoperative imaging techniques include ultrasound, positron emission tomography-computed tomography (PET-CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) [2, 3]. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) has been proposed as a tool for detecting parathyroid adenomas [4–6]. This report describes the case of a 74-year-old woman with PHPT.

Preoperative 99mTc-sestamibi scintigraphy showed a parathyroid adenoma behind the esophagus, which was confirmed by MRI (Fig. 1) and 11C-methionine PET-CT (Fig. 2). In an attempt to facilitate surgical identification, an operative EUS was performed in order to tattoo the target nodule.

The adenoma was visible from the upper esophagus as a 13-mm iso-hyperechoic nodule with a peripheral cyst, behind the esophagus. A 25-gauge needle (Echo-Tip Ultra; Cook Medical, Limerick, Ireland) was used under EUS guidance to inject 1 mL of ink into the nodule (Fig. 3). During the injection, a hyperechoic blush was visualized around the tip of the needle. No complications were observed.

The patient underwent surgery 3 days after the tattooing procedure. A video-assisted parathyroidectomy was performed. Behind the esophagus, the black tattooed nodule guided the surgeons to perform a gentle dissection and excision of the adenoma. The tattoo was extremely precise and no ink had spread into the surrounding tissue (Fig. 4). The intraoperative serum parathyroid hormone assay showed a drop to the normal range, and calcium serum level reached the normal value within the first postoperative day.

EUS-guided tattooing has been used to mark the location of small pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors [7]. The present case represents the first report of EUS-guided tattooing of a retroesophageal parathyroid adenoma. Its use for preoperative marking of a small tumor can be helpful to the surgeon by making surgical removal more precise and less invasive and thus avoiding unnecessary dissection.
Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AS_2AG

Competing interests: None

Silvia Carrara1, Luca Cozzaglio2, Manol Jovani3, Giovanna Pepe3, Cristina Bonifacio4, Andrea Andriloni4, Alessandro Repici1

1 Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Rozzano, Milan, Italy
2 Division of Surgical Oncology, Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Rozzano, Milan, Italy
3 Nuclear Medicine, Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Rozzano, Milan, Italy
4 Radiology, Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Rozzano, Milan, Italy

References


Bibliography
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1377586
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E496–E497
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Silvia Carrara, MD
Digestive Endoscopy
Istituto Clinico Humanitas
Via Manzoni 56
Rozzano 20089
Italy
silvia.carrara@humanitas.it