Antibiotic-associated hemorrhagic colitis with ischemic change

A 67-year-old woman presented with abdominal pain and hematochezia. She had never used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, but had been started on amoxicillin, clarithromycin, and lansoprazole 3 days earlier as Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy. On admission, white blood cell count was 21,600/µL and C-reactive protein level was 2.8mg/dL. Computed tomography showed thickening of the intestinal wall from the ascending to transverse colon (Fig. 1). No occlusion of the superior mesenteric artery was found.

We prohibited ingestion and started an intravenous drip without antibiotic. Klebsiella oxytoca was detected in culture of a fecal sample taken on admission, and negative results were obtained for Clostridium difficile toxin. On hospital day 4, colonoscopy revealed a deep longitudinal ulcer in the colon with dark purple color change (Fig. 2). Pathological examination of a biopsy specimen showed necrosis and desquamation of the surface epithelium, along with severe neutrophil infiltration in the lamina propria (Fig. 3). The patient gradually improved, and follow-up endoscopy was performed on hospital day 16. The lesion had completely disappeared (Fig. 4), together with her complaints and blood test abnormalities. Antibiotic-associated hemorrhagic colitis (AAHC) is a well-known complication after taking antibiotics, mainly penicillins, however, the underlying mechanism remains unknown. Some reports have suggested K. oxytoca as the cause [1,2], but this bacterium has not been consistently isolated [3]. Diffuse mucosal hemorrhage is described as a typical endoscopic finding of AAHC, whereas ulceration is uncommon [3]. Although a variety of histological changes have been reported in AAHC, few reports have described longitudinal ulceration. The major pathological findings seem to be intramucosal hemorrhage with generally little inflammatory cell infiltration [4,5].

Competing interests: None

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AD_2AJ
Koichiro Abe, Yu Kawashima, Hitoshi Aoyagi, Satoshi Kimura, Akari Isono, Tadahisa Ebato, Takatsugu Yamamoto, Hiroto Kita, Yasushi Kuyama
Department of Internal Medicine, Teikyo University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

References

Bibliography
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1390717
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E601–E602
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Koichiro Abe, MD
Department of Internal Medicine, Teikyo University School of Medicine, 2-11-1 Kaga, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 173-8606, Japan
Fax: +81-3-53751308
abe@med.teikyo-u.ac.jp