A case of delayed bleeding after endoscopic submucosal dissection for completely circumferential esophageal cancer

Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) for early esophageal cancer is being performed more frequently. Perforation and stricture are well-known complications of esophageal ESD, but delayed bleeding is very rare. This is the first report of delayed bleeding after esophageal ESD.

An 82-year-old man was admitted to our hospital to undergo esophageal ESD for a superficial esophageal cancer 60 mm in diameter that involved the entire circumference of the esophageal lumen (Fig. 1). En bloc resection of the tumor was performed successfully without any complications (Fig. 2). To prevent post-ESD stricture, triamcinolone acetonide was injected into the remaining submucosa immediately after ESD. The following morning, the patient vomited a large volume of blood, and an emergency endoscopy was performed. After numerous clots had been removed with grasping forceps, the bleeding was stopped with hemostatic forceps (Video 1). Fortunately, endoscopic balloon dilation was not required after one local injection and the systemic administration of prednisolone. The patient was able to ingest all foods without any symptoms at 1 year after ESD (Fig. 3).

Bleeding after esophageal ESD is very rare. From March 2007 to March 2015, the rate, including this case, was 0.19% (1/529) in our experience. Tsujii et al. reported no cases of post-ESD bleeding in 368 patients [1]. This absence of post-ESD bleeding is unexplained but may be related to the lower level of exposure to gastric acid after esophageal ESD than after gastric ESD. In this patient, hypertension (systolic blood pressure > 190 mmHg) after ESD may also have played a role.

In patients with post-ESD bleeding, clips are typically effective for hemostasis. However, in circumferential ESD for esophageal cancer, hemostatic forceps should be used because such lesions are associated with a high risk for post-ESD stricture, which may require endoscopic balloon dilation.

Competing interests: None
Hideyuki Chiba¹, Keiichi Ashikari¹, Akihiro Takahashi¹, Toru Goto¹, Ken Ohata², Nobuyuki Matsushashi², Atsushi Nakajima³

¹ Department of Gastroenterology, Omori Red Cross Hospital, Tokyo, Japan
² Department of Gastroenterology, NTT Medical Center Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
³ Department of Gastroenterology, Yokohama City University, Kanagawa, Japan

Reference

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Corresponding author
Hideyuki Chiba, MD, PhD
Omori Red Cross Hospital
Department of Gastroenterology
4-30-1, Chuo Ota-Ku
Tokyo, 143-8527
Japan
Fax: +81-3-3448-6541
h.chiba04@gmail.com