Diagnosing pseudoaneurysm of the gastroduodenal artery on endoscopic ultrasound

A 72-year-old man presented to the emergency room with acute-on-chronic back pain. His medical history was significant for cholecystectomy, deep venous thrombosis, multiple myeloma, and angioedema with the administration of iodinated contrast. He was on long-term enoxaparin and weekly steroid therapy.

Computed tomography of the spine revealed compression fractures of the T11, T12, and L2 vertebrae due to multiple myeloma. A 5.3 × 4.7-cm mass was noted incidentally in the second portion of duodenum and initially diagnosed as an intramural hematoma (Fig. 1). The mass was seen to have increased in size (to 5.6 × 4.9 cm) on a noncontrast computed tomographic scan obtained for follow-up of the mass 2 months later.

Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy showed extrinsic compression of the bulb and second portion of the duodenum without any mucosal lesions (Fig. 2). Endoscopic ultrasound was done right away and revealed a 4.5 × 4.5-cm round vascular lesion with a high blood flow rate posterior to the duodenal bulb, highly suggestive of a gastroduodenal artery aneurysm (Fig. 3). Computed tomographic angiography of the abdomen after premedication with intravenous glucocorticoids confirmed a 5.9 × 6.4 × 6.9-cm pseudoaneurysm of the proximal branch of the gastroduodenal artery compressing the second portion of the duodenum (Fig. 4).

Metallic coils were successfully placed proximally and distally to the pseudoaneurysm by interventional radiology, with no detectable blood flow after the coiling (Fig. 5). Follow-up computed tomographic angiography of the abdomen after 7 weeks showed a decrease in the size of the pseudoaneurysm and no extravasation of contrast.

A few cases of visceral artery pseudoaneurysm treated with the injection of drugs under endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) guidance have been reported [1–3]. However, this is the first case in which EUS was instrumental in establishing a diagnosis of gastroduodenal artery pseudoaneurysm because of a patient’s known allergy to iodinated contrast. Cholecystectomy was the only identifiable risk factor for the patient’s gastroduodenal artery pseudoaneurysm.

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Competing interests: None
Avin Aggarwal, Shashank Garg

1 Department of Medicine, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
2 Division of Digestive Health and Nutrition, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Kentucky, USA

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Corresponding author
Shashank Garg, MBBS
Division of Digestive Health and Nutrition
Department of Internal Medicine
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
800 Rose Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40536
USA
Fax: +1-859-257-9287
shashank.garg@uky.edu

Fig. 5 Angiogram of the celiac axis (blue arrow) showing the gastroduodenal artery pseudoaneurysm (white arrow) with metallic coils proximal and distal to the aneurysm (black arrows).