A 39-year-old man underwent a distal spleno-pancreatectomy and colonic resection for a tail pancreatic cancer infiltrating the colonic splenic flexure. Five days after surgery, the patient experienced fever and abdominal pain. A computed tomography (CT) scan showed a 10-cm intra-abdominal collection with free air bubbles inside; oral contrast-medium intake revealed a passage from the colon to the abdominal collection, highly suspicious of an anastomotic leak (▶Fig. 1).

Endoscopy confirmed a wide anastomotic leakage with access to a peri-anastomotic cavity (▶Fig. 2a, b) and we decided to attempt endoscopic internal drainage in order to avoid a new surgical procedure.

Under endoscopic view and fluoroscopic guidance, two double-pigtail plastic stents (10-Fr/10-cm and 7-Fr/7-cm, Bos-
ton Scientific, Massachusetts, USA) were placed across the leak orifice (▶ Video 1) with one pigtail tip of each stent located inside the cavity. A CT scan 24 hours later confirmed the correct placement of the two stents. Follow-up CT scans showed a progressive reduction in the collection’s size up to 2 cm at 5 weeks, so stent removal was planned. Endoscopy showed a closure of the anastomotic leak and a single stent “in situ” that was removed with a forceps. The next CT scan confirmed the complete collapse of peri-anastomotic collection (▶ Fig. 3). After 6 months, the colo-colonic anastomosis appeared endoscopically regular with a complete closure of the leakage (▶ Fig. 4).

Endoscopy is emerging as a first-line approach over surgery for management of post-operative gastrointestinal leaks and fistulae [1]. While endoluminal vacuum therapy is reported as an effective method for management of colo-rectal anastomotic leakages [2], endoscopic internal drainage by double-pigtail stent placement is described as a conservative treatment of leaks and fistulas after upper gastrointestinal surgery, especially in the bariatric setting [3–5]. The application of endoscopic internal drainage technique in this case allowed us to successfully and conservatively manage a proximal colo-colonic anastomotic leakage without needing a protective ileostomy or an additional surgical procedure.

Competing interests

Dr. Roberto Di Mitri is consultant of Boston Scientific; the other authors have no conflicts of interest.

The authors

Robert Di Mitri1, Ambra Bonaccorso1, Filippo Mocciaro1, Michele Amata1, Elisabetta Conte1, Pierenrico Marchesa2, Daniela Scimeca1

1 Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit, ARNAS Civico – Di Cristina – Benfratelli Hospital, Palermo, Italy
2 Oncologic Surgery Unit, ARNAS Civico – Di Cristina – Benfratelli Hospital, Palermo, Italy

Corresponding author

Daniela Scimeca, MD, PhD
Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit, ARNAS Civico – Di Cristina – Benfratelli Hospital, Piazza N. Leotta n. 4, 90100, Palermo, Italy
d.scimeca80@gmail.com

References


Bibliography

Endoscopy

DOI 10.1055/a-1625-4106
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2021
© 2021, Thieme. All rights reserved.
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany

ENDOSCOPY E-VIDEOS

https://eref.thieme.de/e-videos

Endoscopy E-Videos is a free access online section, reporting on interesting cases and new techniques in gastroenterological endoscopy. All papers include a high quality video and all contributions are freely accessible online.

This section has its own submission website at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/e-videos