A surprising case of a biliary tumor-like lesion

A 74-year-old man referred to our institute complained of asthenia and jaundice associated with altered laboratory liver tests. The patient’s history included cardiopathy, dyslipidemia, arterial hypertension, and partial gastrectomy with Billroth II reconstruction due to a peptic ulcer. Abdominal ultrasound showed dilation of intrahepatic bile ducts associated with hepatic hilar tissue, strongly suspected for hilar tumor (Klatskin type IV according to Bismuth–Corlette classification) [1–3] on computed tomography (CT) scan (Fig. 1), associated with low grade intra-abdominal fluid. Neoplastic markers (carbohydrate antigen 19-9, carcinoembryonic antigen, and alpha-fetoprotein) were negative. Percutaneous transhepatic-cholangiography with brushing and biliary internal-external 10-Fr drainage placement was considered the best option. Cytology examination was inconclusive.

A second percutaneous cholangioscopy was performed in the radiologic theater (Fig. 3) and an unexpected image appeared: a hard, brownish, oblong 17-mm formation was embedded in the suspicious papillary tissue, so it was gently extracted using a forceps for foreign bodies (Fig. 4, Video 1). On macroscopic evaluation it appeared as a fishbone; the histology showed an animal origin (vimentin dye negative) and mineral consistency comparable to a chicken bone (Fig. 5). The histology on the hilar tissue identified inflammatory tissue without any sign of dysplasia/neoplasia, compatible with a foreign body reaction. The

![Fig. 1](computed tomography scan showing dilation of intrahepatic bile ducts and nodular hilar tissue (red circle)).

![Fig. 2](radiological imaging of internal-external percutaneous biliary drainage. Arterial embolization (arrow) to treat the post-procedural active bleeding from a pseudo-aneurysm of the hepatic artery.

![Fig. 3](percutaneous cholangioscopy performed in the radiological theater.

![Fig. 4 a,b](endoscopic views of the hard, brownish, and oblong foreign body (arrows) embedded in the papillary hilar tissue.)
patient fully recovered after removal of biliary drainage, and the cholangiography showed a more regular hilar biliary tree with normal bile and contrast outflow. After 6 months of follow-up the patient did not complain about any other symptom and imaging did not show signs of malignancy.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AR_2AK

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Giacomo Emanuele Maria Rizzo1,2,3, Luigi Maruzzelli4, Rosa Liotta1, Roberto Miraglia4, Salvatore Gruttadauria6,7, Mario Traina1, Ilaria Tarantino1

1 Endoscopy Service, Department of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, IRCCS-ISMETT, Palermo, Italy

2 Department of Surgical, Oncological and Oral Sciences (Di.Chir.On.S.), University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy

3 Section of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Department of Health Promotion Sciences Maternal and Infant Care, Internal Medicine and Medical Specialties, PROMISE, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy

4 Radiology Unit, Department of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, IRCCS-ISMETT, Palermo, Italy

5 Pathology Unit, Department of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, IRCCS-ISMETT, Palermo, Italy

6 Department for the Treatment and Study of Abdominal Diseases and Abdominal Transplantation, IRCCS-ISMETT (Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico – Istituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad alta specializzazione), UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center), Palermo, Italy

7 Department of Surgery and Medical and Surgical Specialties, University of Catania, Catania, Italy

Corresponding author

Ilaria Tarantino, MD
Endoscopy Service, Department of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, IRCCS-ISMETT Palermo, Via Ernesto Tricomi 5, 90127 Palermo, Italy
itarantino@ismett.edu

References


Bibliography

Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1759-2377
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2022
© 2022. Thieme. All rights reserved.
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany

Rizzo GEM et al. A surprising case ... Endoscopy | © 2022. Thieme. All rights reserved.