Usefulness of gel immersion endoscopy to identify a colonic diverticulum with active bleeding

Management of colonic diverticular bleeding is clinically important because severe cases require transarterial embolization or surgical intervention; colonic diverticular bleeding can cause death in elderly patients with multiple comorbidities [1]. Colonoscopy enables the diagnosis and treatment of the bleeding site; however, identifying the diverticulum with active bleeding is challenging. Gel immersion endoscopy has been reported to be useful for securing the visual field during endoscopy for gastrointestinal bleeding [2, 3]. We report a case in which gel immersion endoscopy was effective in allowing the colonic diverticulum with active bleeding to be identified.

An 87-year-old man taking aspirin and apixaban for ischemic heart disease presented to our hospital with massive hematochezia from that morning. On admission, his hemoglobin level was 8.0 g/dL and he exhibited vital signs of shock. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography revealed extravasation in the ascending colon (arrow). Fresh blood and clotting were observed in the ascending colon. Gel immersion endoscopy showed a diverticulum with pulsatile bleeding (arrow). A vessel was visualized on the ligated diverticulum.
raphy revealed extravasation in the ascending colon (▶ Fig. 1). We performed emergency colonoscopy with blood transfusion. Fresh blood and clotting were observed in the ascending colon (▶ Fig. 2). However, we were unable to identify the bleeding point because of active bleeding and poor visual field. After injecting Viscoclear gel (Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Tokushima, Japan) [4], the visual field improved and a diverticulum with pulsatile bleeding was identified (▶ Fig. 3, ▶ Video 1). An endoclamp was placed as a marker close to this diverticulum, and endoscopic band ligation was then carried out (▶ Fig. 4). Bleeding did not recur after the treatment.

In summary, we found gel immersion endoscopy to be useful for identifying a colonic diverticulum with active bleeding.

Endoscopy UCTN_Code_TTT_1AQ_2AZ

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1810-6843
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2022
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Kishino Takaaki, Kitamura Yoko. Usefulness of gel... Endoscopy | © 2022. The Author(s).