Endoscopic management of cystic duct stumpitis

A 62-year-old man who underwent an uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy 1 year prior for acute gangrenous cholecystitis presented with abdominal pain. Computed tomography demonstrated a dilated cystic duct remnant with stones (▶ Fig. 1), confirmed on magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography. The patient declined surgical intervention. Given the recent evidence [1], the patient was referred for an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP).

Cholangioscopy (SpyGlass Direct Visualization System; Boston Scientific, Natick, Massachusetts, USA) during ERCP revealed a markedly inflamed and stenosed cystic duct insertion (▶ Fig. 2), thought to be reactive from stone disease, precluding advancement of the cholangioscope into the cystic duct remnant. The remainder of the bile duct epithelium was normal. An occlusion cholangiogram demonstrated an obstructing stone within the cystic duct remnant (▶ Fig. 3). Owing to the severe inflammation, attempted stone extraction was deferred. A 5Fr × 10-cm plastic pigtail stent was placed into the cystic duct remnant for transpapillary decompression to facilitate inflammation healing (▶ Fig. 4). The patient was discharged home on a course of oral antibiotics.

On repeat ERCP 3 months later, the stent was removed and cholangiogram demonstrated a persistent stone in the cystic duct remnant (▶ Video 1). Cholangioscopy was performed and the inflammation had resolved (▶ Fig. 5). The cholangioscope was advanced into the remnant, and a small cholesterol stone was visualized. Electrohydraulic lithotripsy (EHL) was successfully employed and the stone was extracted. A final occlusion cholangiogram confirmed clearance of the cystic duct remnant. On 4-week follow-up, the patient confirmed complete resolution of symptoms.

Surgical resection of the cystic duct remnant has been the traditional approach for treatment of cystic duct remnant syndromes [2]. We report a case of cystic duct stump syndrome (stumpitis) mana-
ged solely with endoscopy. This case demonstrates that transpapillary stenting and calculi extraction can be effective for this syndrome, highlighting the expanding role endoscopy plays in the management of postsurgical conditions.

Endoscopy UCTN_Code_CCL_1AZ_2AD

Competing interests

AJT: Consultant for Pentax Medical, Lucid Diagnostics, and Exact Sciences. PCB: Consultant for Boston Scientific, Apollo Endosurgery, Fujifilm, Olympus America; MP has no financial or personal COI.

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Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1882-5491
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2022
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