An unusual malignant main bile duct stricture: a biliary metastasis of endometrial adenocarcinoma.

Biliary strictures are frequently encountered in interventional endoscopy. Their etiological diagnosis may be complicated [1]. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) guided biopsies, brush cytology, and wire-guided biopsies allow a diagnosis in most cases. Single-operator cholangioscopy (SOC) has radically changed the diagnostic approach, allowing visualization of the lesion, endoscopic characterization, and targeted biopsies [2].

We report the case of a 71-year-old woman with a history of endometrial adenocarcinoma, with muscular and bone recurrence 4 years after treatment. She developed a sudden jaundice without any other clinical signs. A magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography found a circumferential parietal thickening of the main bile duct with dilatation of the intrahepatic bile ducts (▶Fig.1). We decided to perform an EUS, which showed extensive cholangitis in the midlle part of the bile duct with circumferential thickening of the bile duct mucosa. A 22 G needle biopsy was performed. Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) was then performed (▶Fig.2) with SOC, which showed that the strictured area was indeed a fibrous stenosis with anarchic vascularization (▶Video 1).

Biopsies were taken with forceps. Brush cytology and wire-guided biopsies were also performed. The procedure was completed with the placement of three plastic stents (one 15 cm and 8.5 Fr stent in the left bile duct; one 12 cm and 8.5 Fr stent and one 12 cm and 7 Fr stent in the right intrahepatic bile ducts). Histological examination found carcinomatous cells (mutated p53, PAX8 +), which were presumed to be metastasis of gynecological origin (▶Fig.3).

The use of SOC allows a finer analysis of indeterminate biliary stenosis. The presence of aberrant vascularization seems to be correlated with the neoplastic nature of the lesion [3]. SOC therefore allows macroscopic analysis of the lesion and targeted biopsies, probably making biliary sampling less random [4,5].

Acknowledgement

This work was supported by French state funds managed within the “Plan Investments d’Avenir” and by the ANR (reference ANR-10-IAHU-02).
Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Funding

Agence Nationale de la Recherche
ANR-10-IHU-02

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Fig. 2 Retrograde cholangiography showing the different stages of the endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography procedure. a Retrograde cholangiography showing the stricture of the main bile duct (black arrow). b Retrograde cholangiography with single-operator cholangioscopy (black arrow). c Retrograde cholangiography with wire-guided forceps (black arrow). d Placement of three plastic biliary stents.

Fig. 3 Biopsies of the main bile duct under single-operator cholangioscopy. a Normal biliary epithelium (black arrow) and neoplastic cells (red arrows) with hematoxylin-eosin stain (magnification × 200). b Neoplastic cells of gynecological origin with immunohistochemistry stain (PAX 8).

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Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1884-9055
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2022
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