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 middle 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].

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Corresponding author

Pierre Mayer, MD
Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Pôle Hépato-Digestif, Nouvel Hôpital Civil, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg (HUS), 1 place de l’Hôpital, 67000 Strasbourg, France
pierre-emmanuel.mayer@chru-strasbourg.fr

The authors

Pierre Mayer1,2, Lucile Héroin1,2, Gerlinde Averous3, Mathieu Pioche4, Gabriel Lepeut5, Emanuele Felli6, François Habersetzer1,2,7

1 Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Pôle Hépato-Digestif, Nouvel Hôpital Civil, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg (HUS), Strasbourg, France
2 IHU-Strasbourg (Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire), Strasbourg, France
3 Department of Pathology, HUS, Strasbourg, France
4 Department of Endoscopy and Hepatogastroenterology, Pavillon L, Edouard Herriot Hospital, Lyon, France
5 Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Centre Hospitalier de Roubaix, Roubaix, France
6 Department of Digestive Surgery, Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplantation, CHU Tours, Tours, France
7 Inserm U1110, Institute for Viral and Liver Diseases, LabEx HepSYS, University of Strasbourg, Faculty of Medicine, Strasbourg, France

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).
References


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