Biliary ascariasis: extraction

Biliary ascariasis is one of the complications of *Ascaris lumbricoides* infestation. The condition results from the migration of the *A. lumbricoides* worm into the biliary tract, causing symptoms ranging from mild biliary colic to severe cholangitis [1]. Despite *A. lumbricoides* being one of the most common helminth infestations in Malaysia, biliary ascariasis is rare [2].

A 71-year-old woman with a history of laparoscopic cholecystectomy presented with sudden onset of abdominal pain localized at the epigastric region and radiating to the back. She had episodes of low grade fever and a history of passing out worms in stool a day prior to presentation to our center. The patient was from a poor socioeconomic background, with constant exposure to soil and farm animals. Ultrasound assessment showed a dilated common hepatic duct of 1.4 cm in diameter, with the presence of a linear tubular echogenic structure within the biliary tree (▶Fig. 1). Fluoroscopic imaging showed a moving elongated structure within the biliary tree (▶Fig. 2).

Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) was performed and the solitary worm was retrieved via the oral route by using balloon trawl and snare probe. The worm was then inspected and measured. The whole worm measured 25 cm in length and was extracted in one piece (▶Video 1). The patient was further treated with antihelmint (oral albendazole 400 mg once daily) for 3 days, and was discharged after 3 days of admission.

Biliary ascariasis can be diagnosed by noninvasive imaging such as ultrasonography as the primary investigation tool [3]. It can be further confirmed and managed by ERCP. Ascariasis in general as a disease is much more difficult to eradicate as its epidemiology involves those who are from poor socioeconomic backgrounds [4]. Without a holistic approach with multidisciplinary involvement at healthcare and community levels, the cycle of ascariasis infestation will remain unbroken.

**Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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