Aneurysms of the left gastric and splenic arteries presenting with massive upper gastrointestinal bleeding

Splanchnic artery aneurysms are rare, with an incidence of 0.01 – 0.20% in routine autopsies [1]. They occur most commonly in the splenic artery (60%) [2]. Left gastric artery aneurysms are extremely rare [3]. Multiple aneurysms are present in approximately a third of patients [4]. Here we describe a case with aneurysms arising from the left gastric and splenic arteries, presenting with massive upper gastrointestinal bleeding. A 73-year-old man presented with an acute episode of hematemesis. He denied use of medications, including steroids, analgesics, and herbal or antiplatelet drugs. At admission, his heart rate was 130 beats/min and blood pressure was 97/61 mmHg. Laboratory data showed severe anemia (Hb 76 g/L). Emergency esophagogastroduodenoscopy revealed an elevated mass lesion over the lesser curvature of the cardiac area, measuring 35 mm, with a central ulcer with adherent blood clot, recognized as a bleeder (Fig. 1). Another elevated mass lesion with intact mucosa was found over the cardiac area, measuring 55 mm. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen revealed a 40 mm × 40 mm left gastric artery aneurysm with thrombus abutting the lesser curvature of the stomach and a 55 mm × 50 mm splenic artery aneurysm with thrombus at the splenic hilum and abutting the stomach (arrow; Fig. 2). CT angiography disclosed the aneurysms originating from the left gastric (arrow) and splenic (arrowhead) arteries.

**Fig. 1** Endoscopic view of the stomach showing an elevated mass lesion (diameter 35 mm) over the lesser curvature of the cardiac area. There is a ulcer in the center of the lesion with an adherent blood clot.

**Fig. 2** a Computed tomography (CT) scan of the abdomen showing aneurysms in the left gastric artery (40 mm × 40 mm) with thrombus abutting the lesser curvature of the stomach (arrow) and in the splenic artery (55 mm × 50 mm) with thrombus at the splenic hilum and abutting the stomach (arrowhead). b CT angiogram showing the aneurysms originating from the left gastric (arrow) and splenic (arrowhead) arteries.

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Fig. 3 The cut surface of the splenic artery aneurysm measured 55 mm × 50 mm × 50 mm. Fresh blood clots in the center of the aneurysm are surrounded by old laminated blood clots.


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