Infiltrating hepatocellular carcinoma into the duodenum presenting with upper gastrointestinal bleeding

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a primary tumor of the liver that usually develops in the setting of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. Extrahepatic spread is found in 10%–20% of patients at the time of diagnosis and is more common in tumors over 5 cm in diameter [1]. Direct invasion of the gastrointestinal tract is rare and reported to occur in 0.5% of cases [2]. We present a case of HCC directly invading the duodenal bulb with resultant upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

A 78-year-old woman with a history of chronic hepatitis C presented with 2 days duration of melena and a hemoglobin of 6.8 g/dL. Two years prior she underwent partial gastrectomy, due to duodenal perforation by the tumor. Computed tomography of the abdomen (CT) scan showing a large, 8.5 × 6.9 cm, inferior right hepatic lobe mass with direct invasion into the proximal duodenum (black arrow).

Endoscopic findings revealed an infiltrating mass into the duodenal bulb with active oozing (Fig. 1). Epinephrine (1:10,000) was injected around the protruding mass with satisfactory control of bleeding. Computed tomography of the abdomen (Fig. 2) revealed a cirrhotic appearing liver with a large, 8.5 × 6.9 cm, inferior right hepatic lobe mass with direct invasion into the proximal duodenum.

HCC has been described with direct invasion into the stomach and colon with resultant gastrointestinal bleeding [3,4]. Direct invasion into the duodenum has been rarely reported [5], and upper gastrointestinal bleeding and gastric outlet obstruction is a rare presentation when duodenal invasion occurs [6]. Treatment with external beam radiation therapy has been described when gastrointestinal bleeding refractory to standard endoscopic hemostasis techniques occurs [7]. Surgical resection with a pancreas-sparing duodenectomy or an extended left lobectomy with partial gastroduodenectomy has been successful [8,9]. Despite the above measures, prognosis remains poor.

References

Bibliography
Endoscopy 2009; 41: E308
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
L. E. Kurtz, MD
Division of Gastroenterology
Long Island Jewish Medical Center
270-05 76th Avenue
New Hyde Park
New York 11040
USA
Fax: +1-718-841-7420
leokurtz@yahoo.com