Endoscopic ultrasound-guided drainage of a pelvic abscess via a J-pouch

While prior reports have demonstrated the usefulness of endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) for transrectal drainage of pelvic abscesses, its utility for performing drainage via an ileoanal reservoir (J-pouch) has not been reported before.

A 28-year-old patient with a history of total colectomy and a J-pouch for ulcerative colitis presented with persistent fever and rectal pain. Computed tomography (CT) of the pelvis revealed an abscess measuring 5 × 3 cm adjacent to the J-pouch (Fig. 1). EUS-guided drainage of the abscess was requested because of the lack of an adequate window for percutaneous drainage. At EUS, the pelvic abscess was punctured (Fig. 2) using a 19-gauge fine needle aspiration needle via the J-pouch under EUS guidance.

Fig. 1  Computed tomography (CT) of the pelvis, revealing a 5 × 3-cm pelvic abscess in a patient with J-pouch anatomy.

The transmural tract was sequentially dilated using a 5-Fr endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography cannula and a 6-mm balloon dilator (Fig. 4). A 7-Fr double pigtail stent was then deployed into the abscess cavity (Fig. 5).

Postprocedure, the patient was afebrile and had no rectal pain. Follow-up CT revealed complete resolution of the abscess, and so the transrectal stent was retrieved by sigmoidoscopy.

Fitting a J-pouch, sometimes referred to as ileoanal reservoir, involves colectomy with mucosal proctectomy and the creation of an ileal reservoir which is anastomosed to the anal canal [1]. In a meta-analysis, 9.5% of patients with a J-pouch developed pelvic abscess from anastomotic dehiscence [2]. Initial management often includes percutaneous drainage; a persistent abscess may require surgery [3]. In a prior study by myself and a co-author, we have shown that EUS is a minimally invasive alternative for drainage of pelvic abscesses [4]. However, patients with a J-pouch were excluded because of concerns of perforation in a surgically constructed anatomy. Given the inability to treat the pelvic abscess by percutaneous means, we attempted drainage via the J-pouch in this patient, with good clinical outcomes.

Competition interests: None
S. Varadarajulu
University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Medicine, Birmingham, Alabama, USA

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Corresponding author
S. Varadarajulu, MD
Basil I. Hirschowitz Endoscopic Center of Excellence
University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Medicine
JT 664, 1530 3rd Avenue South
Birmingham
Alabama 35294
USA
Fax: +1-205-975-6381
svaradarajulu@yahoo.com