An 81-year-old woman with history of chronic lymphocytic leukemia and recent diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* colitis, and maintained on oral vancomycin, presented for generalized weakness, persistent nausea, and a long history of difficulty swallowing (food hangs in her chest and does not move down to her stomach). Workup revealed low potassium and white blood cell count of 41 000/mm with lymphocytes predominance. Renal function and liver enzyme levels were within normal. The patient received intravenous fluids and electrolytes replacement. A diagnostic upper endoscopy was done to delineate the cause of the dysphagia, and the findings were tortuous esophagus, slight narrowing of the esophageal sphincter, and an enormous intrathoracic stomach. Most of the stomach except for the antrum was above the diaphragm. The scope was passed through the hiatus entering the antrum and fair maneuverings were required to reach the pylorus and into the duodenum. Biopsies were taken and esophageal sphincter balloon dilatation was done. Shortly after the procedure, the patient became diaphoretic, hypotensive, and tachycardic, requiring fluid resuscitation and vasopressors. She also developed abdominal pain and marked tenderness, predominantly at the right upper quadrant.

A blood workup revealed slight drop in hemoglobin but increase in the white blood cell count up to 70000/mm. An immediate computed tomography (CT) scan without contrast showed massive hemo-peritoneum with subcapsular hematoma on the spleen (Fig. 1). The patient was diagnosed as having splenic rupture. Exploratory laparotomy showed large hemoperitoneum (about 1500 mL blood), subcapsular hematoma of the lateral inferior portion of the spleen, as well as a large amount of coagulated blood in the splenic fossa and free blood in the peritoneal cavity. The spleen short gastric vessels attached to the stomach fundus were intact, but partial disruption of the lateral peritoneal attachments of the spleen was noted. Splenectomy was done and the bleeding sites were sutured. The stomach was found to be herniated through a large paraesophageal hernia. The stomach was then fixed with double gastrostomy tube placement several days later. Rupture of the spleen following trauma is rare. We think that the excessive stretching of spleno-diaphragmatic ligaments and of spleno-peritoneal lateral attachments during endoscopy and possibly the location of most of the stomach in the thoracic cavity had contributed to the spleen rupture. Rapid diagnosis in the presence of suggestive symptoms of hemodynamic instability and abdominal pain following upper endoscopy is life-saving.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CPL_1AH_2AJ

Competing interests: None

F. Jabr1, N. Skeik2
1 Hospital Medicine, Horizon Medical Center, Tennessee, USA
2 Vascular Medicine, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis, USA

References


Bibliography

DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0032-1308924
Endoscopy 2012; 44: E206
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
F. Jabr
Horizon Medical Center – Hospital Medicine
HWY 70 E, Dickson
Tennessee 37055
USA
fijabr@gmail.com