Recurrent pancreatitis caused by pancreatic ductal villous adenoma treated with endoscopic snare polypectomy

Adenomas can develop anywhere along the gastrointestinal tract. Herein we describe pancreatic ductal adenoma causing recurrent pancreatitis treated by endoscopic snare polypectomy.

A 70-year-old white male with recurrent acute pancreatitis (index attack 5 years ago) was referred for endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) evaluation. The latest magnetic resonance scan showed a pancreatic ductal filling defect with ductal dilatation (Fig. 1). Linear array EUS examination revealed a 1.5 × 1.6 cm submucosal, mixed echogenic mass lesion causing upstream pancreatic ductal dilation. The common bile duct was of normal caliber with no filling defects. ERCP confirmed a bulging ampulla and pancretogram (Fig. 2) established the dilated pancreatic duct with an irregular, mobile filling defect. Following pull-type pancreatic sphincterotomy, balloon extraction exposed a floppy, exuberant, irregular, adenomatous appearing polyp arising from the inferior wall of the pancreatic duct (Fig. 3). Standard snare polypectomy was carried out with blended current and a 5-Fr pancreatic ductal stent was placed (Video 1). Histological assessment of the resected specimen revealed a villous adenoma with focal high grade dysplasia (Fig. 4). The patient continues to do well with no further episodes of pancreatitis.
presentations include mass lesions in the pancreas and recurrent acute pancreatitis. Intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm is a much more common cause of ductal dilation and pancreatitis with progression to adenocarcinoma. This patient, however, presented with a villous adenoma of the pancreatic duct causing recurrent acute pancreatitis. These lesions appear to follow the adenoma-carcinoma pathway [3,4] seen in the colon and therefore need removal. Transduodenal local excision of pancreatic ductal adenoma has been described before [5] but this is the first report describing potentially curative, endoscopic polypectomy of a ductal adenoma. Our patient remains under regular surveillance with follow-up ERCP for stent removal and reevaluation of the pancreatic duct.

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Competing interests: None

J. Ramesh1, L. Council2, C. M. Wilcox1
1 Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, USA
2 Department of Pathology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, USA

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Corresponding author
J. Ramesh
Division of Gastroenterology-Hepatology
University of Alabama in Birmingham
BDB 389, 1808 7th Avenue South
Birmingham
Alabama 35294
USA
Fax: +1-205-9756381
j1ramesh@gmail.com

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