Endoscopic intraductal radiofrequency ablation of remnant intrapapillary mucinous neoplasm with acute hemorrhage after incomplete surgical resection

An 83-year-old woman presented with recurrent hemosuccus pancreaticus. The patient had previously undergone a distal pancreatic resection due to intrapapillary mucinous neoplasm, with main duct involvement of the tail. Upper endoscopy revealed active bleeding through the ampulla of Vater. During a previous episode of pancreatic bleeding, intraductal injection of fibrin glue had been performed. Endoscopic retrograde pancreatography demonstrated dilated pancreatic ducts of the remnant pancreatic head. Approximately 3 cm above the papilla, the main pancreatic duct showed a 10-mm-long irregular stricture (Fig. 1). As the patient refused surgical treatment, radiofrequency ablation (RFA) was performed using a bipolar RFA catheter (EndoHPB; EMcision, Montreal, Canada) designed for biliary RFA. The RFA catheter was advanced over a 0.035-inch guidewire (Jagwire; Boston Scientific Corp., Natick, Massachusetts, USA) (Fig. 2). RFA was applied for a total of 90 seconds using 8W soft coagulation mode, effect 1 (ERBE VIO 300 D; ERBE Elektromedizin GmbH, Tübingen, Germany). The patient developed mild pancreatitis following RFA, with a maximum serum lipase of 9.6 µmol/L after 12 hours, which returned to normal within 24 hours. Computed tomography scan 2 days after ablation showed a 20-mm cystic ablation area in the pancreatic head (Fig. 3). The patient developed no further bleeding during 10 weeks of follow-up.

Whereas endoscopic ultrasound-guided RFA is under evaluation for the ablation of pancreatic lesions, we are not aware of any previous case of direct intraductal application of RFA [1]. Intraductal RFA has the potential to treat complications of intraductal tumor growth such as bleeding. Bleeding from the pancreatic duct often requires radiological or surgical intervention [2]. In the present case, RFA was used to treat bleeding. However, RFA may also be a treatment option for the treatment of small intraductal neoplasms. At present, intraductal RFA is approved for the treatment of malignant biliary strictures [3] and is an alternative to photodynamic therapy [4].
Competing interests: None

Jochen Weigt, Ane Kandulski, Peter Malfertheiner
Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Infectious Diseases, Otto-v.-Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1377590
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E489–E490
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Jochen Weigt, MD
Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Infectious Diseases, Otto-v.-Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany
Fax: +49-391-6713105
jochen.weigt@med.ovgu.de

Weigt Jochen et al. Endoscopic intraductal radiofrequency ablation to treat hemorrhage... Endoscopy 2014; 46: E489–E490