Successful less-invasive endoscopic treatment for bile leakage from choledochojejunostomy site using short-type single-balloon enteroscopy

Bile leakage from the choledochojejunostomy site is usually treated by percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage (PTBD) or reoperation [1, 2]. To date, there have been no reports on endoscopic treatment for bile leakage from the choledochojejunostomy site. Recently, balloon enteroscopy was developed and used to perform endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) in patients with surgically altered gastrointestinal anatomy [3–5]. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case report of balloon enteroscopy-assisted ERCP for bile leakage from the choledochojejunostomy site following transcatheter arterial embolization (TAE).

A 76-year-old man who had undergone subtotal stomach-preserving pancreaticoduodenectomy for pancreatic head cancer 1 month previously presented with melena. A pseudoaneurysm was detected at the distal part of the gastroduodenal artery on computed tomography (CT), which was treated by TAE. Three days after the procedure, the patient experienced abdominal pain and fever, and an abdominal abscess was found on CT (Fig. 1). The cause of the abscess was thought to be anastomotic leakage, which was possibly related to the impairment of blood flow to the bile duct following TAE. PTBD was considered to be difficult because there was no dilation of the bile duct. Therefore, ERCP assisted by prototype, short-type, single-balloon enteroscopy (short-SBE: SIF-Y0015; Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan) was attempted.

The choledochojejunostomy site could be identified using short-SBE (Fig. 2), and cholangiography showed bile leakage at the anastomosis (Fig. 3). A straight-type 5-Fr nasobiliary drainage tube (Gadelius Medical KK, Tokyo, Japan) was placed on the left hepatic duct without any adverse events (Video 1). One week after the procedure, the nasobiliary tube was removed after confirming the absence of bile leakage by cholangiography (Fig. 4). A 7-Fr pigtail stent (Gadelius Medical KK) was then placed to B3 using short-SBE. The biliary stent was removed after 1 month. At the 3-month
follow-up, the patient had experienced no further episodes such as recurrence of bile leakage or anastomotic stenosis. Balloon enteroscopy-assisted ERCP was found to be an effective and less-invasive treatment for bile leakage from the choledochojejunostomy site following TAE.

Acknowledgment

We thank Dr. Edward Barroga, Associate Professor and Senior Editor of Tokyo Medical University for editing the manuscript.

References


Competing interests: None

Kazumasa Nagai, Kei Yane, Akio Katanuma, Kuniyuki Takahashi, Toshifumi Kin, Hajime Yamazaki, Hiroyuki Maguchi

Center for Gastroenterology, Teine-Keijinkai Hospital, Sapporo, Japan

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AR_2AG

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0042-105208
Endoscopy 2016; 48: E140–E141
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author

Kazumasa Nagai, MD
Center for Gastroenterology
Teine-Keijinkai Hospital
1-jo 12-chome
Maeda, Teine-ku
Sapporo 006-8555
Japan
Fax: +81-11-6852967
kazu4439@gmail.com

Fig. 4 Cholangiography via a nasobiliary drainage tube showed improvement in the bile leakage.