Transperineal endoscopic drainage of a presacral and paraspinal abscess

On postoperative day 10, the patient was noted to have a swinging fever and a leukocytosis. Reassessment CT and a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan showed a presacral abscess, measuring 10.2 × 7.0 × 4.6 cm in size, with paraspinal extension of 12.4 × 3.9 × 2.6 cm (Fig. 1a). Rectal contrast injection showed extravasation of contrast but the perforation was not communicating with the abscess cavity. Drainage of the presacral abscess was performed on postoperative day 14. The perineal wound, which was by then 2 cm, was digitally dilated. A 12-mm laparoscopic port was inserted and carbon dioxide was insufflated. A track was created by blunt dissection using a 10-mm 30° laparoscope. As the scope probed into the abscess cavity, there was giving way and drainage of frank pus occurred. A gastroscope (Olympus, Japan) was used to aspirate pus and to perform irrigation (Fig. 2). A 28-Fr chest drain was then inserted over a guidewire (Fig. 3; Video 1).

A further reassessment scan showed marked interval reduction in the size of the collection (Fig. 1b). Culture of the pus yielded Escherichia coli and Enterobacter cloacae. Irrigation with 100 mL of saline was performed twice a day via the drain. A repeat endoscopic drainage was performed 2 weeks later and the patient remained afebrile after the second endoscopic drainage.

To perform PCD, which can be transabdominal, transperineal, or transgluteal, one needs to find a straight path that does not traverse anatomical structures such as the sacrum, rectum, and small bowel [2]. Transrectal drainage with endorectal ultrasound guidance is another option that can be used, especially when the collection is related to recent rectal surgery [3]. These are non-invasive interventions, but they are limited to the placement of relatively small drainage catheters, usually 8–10 Fr.

In this case, endoscopic drainage not only allowed drainage of pus but also deocclusion and removal of solid residuals. Insertion of a large-bore drainage catheter was possible, with use of the track created, permitting repeated endoscopic lavage and debridement. This is the first case in the literature to report the endoscopic drainage of a presacral abscess. A similar technique has been described in the management of necrotizing pancreatitis [4, 5].

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