PORTAL HYPERTENSION ASSOCIATED GASTRIC POLYPOSIS - AN EMERGING ENTITY

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A 56 years old male patient suffering from alcoholic cirrhosis is admitted for upper digestive endoscopy variceal surveillance. The gastric antrum displayed two sessile polyps with a diameter of 1.5 cm each covered by congestive mucosa with several superficial erosions and regular glandular openings, better augmented in narrow band imaging module (NBI) (Figure 1 and 2). The macroscopic appearance suggested hyperplastic polyps.

The forceps biopsy was performed, and the pathologist diagnosis confirmed hyperplasia but also indicated some characteristic features such as: foveolar epithelium hyperplasia, vascular proliferation of dilated capillaries in lamina propria and inflammatory infiltration with lymphocytes. We have diagnosed a rarely described portal hypertension associated gastric polyposis. This may be a gastric manifestation of portal hypertension along with portal hypertensive gastropathy, gastric antral vascular ectasia

(GAVE) and gastric varices⁽¹⁾. A very recent report (June 2019) suggested that this entity may be a polypoid variant of GAVE⁽²⁾. The pathophysiology is unknown, but it may be associated with long standing vascular congestion in gastric mucosa or with endoscopic banding of esophageal varices which opens portal-systemic shunts in gastric wall.

The independent risk factors proposed were thrombocytopenia, Child score higher than 6 and MELD score higher than 16⁽²⁾. The malignant propensity is probably low as with other gastric hyperplastic polyps^(2,3,4). Endoscopic surveillance may be indicated as polypectomy has a high risk of bleeding in cirrhotic patients^(1,2).

We have performed an upper digestive endoscopy after one year and the polyps have vanished. The fact may find an explanation in effective treatment to have decreased portal-hypertension with beta blockers medication.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Images in Medicine

Figure 1. Gastric polyp in antrum (white light)

Figure 2. Gastric polyp in antrum (NBI module)

References

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