Case Report

A case of giant common hepatic artery aneurysm successfully treated by transcatheter arterial embolization with isolation technique via pancreaticoduodenal arcade

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ABSTRACT

Hepatic artery aneurysms are rare and sometimes life-threatening. Various treatments for hepatic artery aneurysms, including surgical and endovascular techniques are present. Here, we report the case of a 68-year-old woman who presented with an about 9 cm of common hepatic artery aneurysm detected during a routine medical checkup; she did not exhibit any symptoms. We successfully treated the aneurysm with transcatheter arterial embolization with isolation technique via pancreaticoduodenal arcade.

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Introduction

Hepatic artery aneurysms are rare and account for 20% of visceral aneurysms [1]. They are often detected incidentally by imaging investigations for other conditions without symptoms [2]. Approximately 20%-30% of hepatic artery aneurysms may rupture and cause sudden abdominal pain and life-threatening conditions [3]. Common treatment options for hepatic artery aneurysms include surgical and endovascular techniques. The treatment modalities for hepatic artery aneurysms depend on the clinical presentation, associated risk factors, and general status of the patient [4]. Additionally, the location and size of the aneurysm are commonly considered [5]. Herein, we report the case of giant common hepatic artery (CHA) aneurysm successfully treated by transcatheter arterial embolization (TAE) with isolation technique via pancreaticoduodenal arcade.
Case

A 68-year-old woman presented to our hospital due to a suspicion of pancreatic head tumor detected by ultrasonography during her medical checkup. She had received medications for schizophrenia. She had no previous history of abdominal surgery, trauma, or hypertension and had given birth twice. Her initial laboratory data appeared to be normal without anemia. Clinical examination revealed normal blood pressure and physical examination showed no significant problems.

To evaluate suspicious pancreatic head tumor, a contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) was performed that revealed an about 9 cm of CHA aneurysm with mural thrombosis and calcification (Fig. 1). Volume rendering 3D well displayed the aneurysm and no branch from the aneurysm (Fig. 2). Distal side of CHA showed to be intact. TAE was planned to prevent rupture. The aneurysm was too large and costly to treat with packing of its sack with coils, and there was no branch from the aneurysm. We believed that the isolation technique would be effective because the aneurysm was located in CHA, and there was sufficient collateral flow from the pancreaticoduodenal arcade.

The right common femoral artery was punctured under local anesthesia, and a 5-Fr cobra-shaped guiding catheter was inserted into the common trunk of the celiac artery and the superior mesenteric artery (SMA). Digital subtraction angiography (DSA) from the common trunk revealed CHA aneurysm. The guiding catheter was inserted into the aneurysm, and DSA from the aneurysm revealed the distal side of CHA and no other branches from the aneurysm (Fig. 3). We attempted to advance a 1.9-Fr micro catheter (Prograte λ19, Terumo Clinical Supply, Gifu, Japan) into the distal side of CHA through the aneurysm, with no success. Therefore, as an alternative,

the left common femoral artery was punctured under local anesthesia, and a 5-Fr sheath introducer was inserted. A 4-Fr Shepherd hook-shaped catheter was inserted into the SMA. A 2.0-Fr micro balloon catheter (LOGOSSWITCH, Piolax Medical Devices Inc, Kanagawa, Japan) was advanced to the proximal side of the CHA and was inflated to occlude the artery. Subsequently, DSA from SMA was performed and it revealed the
distal side of the CHA via very fine pancreaticoduodenal arcade (Fig. 4).

After deflating the balloon, a 1.9-Fr micro catheter was advanced to the distal side of CHA via very fine pancreaticoduodenal arcade. To embolize the distal side of CHA, we used 1-ibered pushable coil (Tornade; Cook Medical, Bloomington, Indiana) and 3 bare puchable coils (C-stopper coil; Piolax Medical Devices Inc, Kanagawa, Japan).

Finally, we used a 6 mm Amplazer Vascular Plug IV (AVP; St. Jude Medical, St. Paul, MN) to embolize the proximal side of CHA, which resulted in complete embolization of the giant hepatic aneurysm with this isolation technique (Fig. 5). After the procedure, she had no complications and was subsequently discharged 10 days after TAE. A follow-up contrast-enhanced CT after 8 months after the treatment showed complete occlusion and reduction of the CHA without complications (Fig. 6).

**Discussion**

Hepatic artery aneurysms are rare and accounts for about 0.002% [6]. They are the second most common visceral aneurysms after splenic artery aneurysms, and they occur more in males than in females. The aneurysms are often located in the extrahepatic artery with the most common location being CHA demonstrated in 63% of cases. There are various etiologies and atherosclerosis accounts for about 30%. Trauma, iatrogenic injury, vasculitis, and fibromuscular dysplasia are known as other causes [7].

Almost all hepatic artery aneurysms are asymptomatic and they are often detected incidentally. The risk of rupture of hepatic artery aneurysms is reported to be 20%-30% and causes life-threatening conditions when ruptured [3]. Because of this risk, the indication for treatment includes symptomatic aneurysm, nonatherosclerotic aneurysms, pseudoaneurysm, and atherosclerotic aneurysm &gt;2 cm [6,8]. Abdominal contrast-enhanced CT and magnetic resonance imaging can diagnose hepatic artery aneurysms in most cases, however selective catheter angiography is the gold standard for diagnosis and for therapeutic intervention [9].

Treatment options for hepatic artery aneurysms include surgical and endovascular techniques. Selection of the most appropriate treatment depends on its location of the aneurysm, clinical presentation, risk factors of rupture, and general condition of the patient [3]. The use of endovascular techniques for the treatment of hepatic artery aneurysms is gradually becoming more frequent because they are less invasive and reduce hospital stay and pain.

Endovascular techniques include isolation, packing, and stent placement technique. Visceral aneurysms are commonly treated with coil embolization using isolation or packing techniques.

Balderi et al reported that coil embolization was the preferred technique in 84% of the patients [10].
Therefore, we attempted to advance the catheter into the distal side of CHA through the aneurysm; however, we encountered difficulty due to the large size of the aneurysm. Therefore, we opted to treat the aneurysm through the very fine pancreaticoduodenal arcade with isolation technique using coils and the Amplatz plug. The procedure was successful, without any complications.

**Conclusion**

We successfully treated giant CHA aneurysm by TAE. In patients with difficulty of packing technique and antegrade isolation technique, TAE using retrograde isolation technique via pancreaticoduodenal arcade can be effective treatment option for CHA aneurysm.

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