Incidental choledochocoele, imaging and endoscopic findings

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DESCRIPTION

A 70-year-old man being investigated for weight loss was found to have an incidental cystic lesion at the level of the ampulla with a normal extrahepatic biliary tree on CT. Liver function tests were normal. MR cholangiopancreatography suggested a focal dilation of the common bile duct deemed proximal to the ampulla, suspicious for malignancy with post-stenotic dilation ([figure 1](#)). At endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, it was seen

Figure 1 MRCP image showing focal dilation of the distal common bile duct. MRCP, MR cholangiopancreatography.

Figure 3 The ampulla was located at the lower end of this lesion and cannulated with a guidewire.

to be a bulge into the duodenum ([figure 2](#)), through which the ampulla was cannulated with a guidewire ([figure 3](#)). Biliary and pancreatic duct anatomy was seen on cholangiography ([figure 4](#)). This was in keeping with a choledochocoele. Bile duct brushings were negative for malignancy on cytology and the patient subsequently underwent endoscopic sphincterotomy with release of multiple stones; he made an uneventful recovery.

A choledochocoele (or type III choledochal cyst)¹ is a rare congenital malformation in which

Figure 2 ERCP revealing an intraluminal bulge into the second part of the duodenum. ERCP, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography.

Figure 4 Cholangiogram showing the guidewire in the common bile duct, which is dilated intraduodenally. The pancreatic duct is outlined in the top right of the image.

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there is a cystic dilation of the intraduodenal portion of the distal common bile duct. They are often a cause for recurrent right upper quadrant pain, jaundice or hyperamylasaemia. They may be associated with cholangitis, choledocholithiasis and

acute pancreatitis; malignant transformation is a rare occurrence.² Most choledochocoeles may be managed by endoscopic sphincterotomy or snare resection, but surgical excision may be indicated with more complex anatomy or suspicion of malignancy.³

Learning points

- ▶ Choledochocoele is a rare congenital malformation of the common bile duct that can harbour gallstones.
- ▶ It is usually benign but radiological appearance may be concerning for malignancy although malignant transformation is rare.
- ▶ Small choledochocoeles can often be managed endoscopically.

Competing interests None declared.

Patient consent Obtained.

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