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Superior mesenteric artery pseudoaneurysm fistulised to the small intestine in a pancreas-kidney transplant recipient: Can it be detected by capsule endoscopy?

Seudoaneurisma de arteria mesentérica superior fistulizado a intestino delgado tras un doble trasplante renopancreático: ¿puede ser diagnosticado por cápsula endoscóptica?

Simultaneous pancreas-kidney transplantation (PKT) is the treatment of choice for patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus and end-stage renal disease. Gastrointestinal bleeding is an uncommon complication following pancreas-kidney transplantation (around 1%), but it is associated with high morbidity and mortality. Upper gastrointestinal bleeding related to gastric ulcers is more frequent than lower bleeding. The rupture of a pseudo-aneurysm of the graft, from splenic or gastro-duodenal artery, is a rare cause of obscure gastrointestinal bleeding in this group of patients.¹

Investigation of gastrointestinal bleeding in a pancreas-kidney transplant recipient includes initially an upper and/or lower endoscopy, followed for radiologic procedures as an abdominal computed tomography (CT) and a digital subtraction angiography (DSA).

Small bowel Capsule Endoscopy (S BCE) is an endoscopic tool for visualize small bowel and with a higher diagnostic yield in obscure gastrointestinal bleeding compared to radiologic procedures.^{2,3}

This is a case of a patient with previous simultaneous pancreas-kidney transplantation who presented an obscure gastrointestinal bleeding. Capsule endoscopy played an important role in the diagnosis and management.

A 53-year-old man underwent kidney-pancreas transplantation for type I diabetes mellitus and end-stage renal



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disease. After two years, he was admitted to the emergency room with 4 days of melena, without instability. Nasogastric lavage showed clear gastric content, with no blood. Hemoglobin level was 8.4 g/dl with normal platelet count and coagulation parameters. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was performed showing a small sessile polyp lesion in antrum with no traces of blood.

After 24 h, the patient had a rebleeding episode and 4 blood units were transfused. After clinical stabilization colonoscopy was performed showing diverticulosis in the sigmoid colon and abundant blood traces. CT angiography (CTA) was performed showing a 2.3 cm pseudo-aneurysm at the anastomosis between the graft's pancreatic arteries and the recipient's common iliac arteries. There was no contrast extravasation into the intestinal lumen.

A Pillcam Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy (SB2, Given Imaging, YoKneam, Israel) was administered, showing as the most important finding, a cavity located in medium jejunum (40 min after pylorus) where the capsule was retained for more than 3 h surrounded by several ulcerative lesions, mucosal erythema and neovascularization as well as a polyoid image that seemed to correspond to ampulla of Vater (Fig. 1). These findings suggested that the pseudo-aneurysm was fissuring the small bowel, so an urgent angiography was performed.

The angiography of the right common iliac artery confirmed a pseudo-aneurysm originated in the superior mesenteric artery (SMA) anastomosis (Fig. 2). Embolization of the aneurysmal sac was performed. First, two coils were placed in a branch of the SMA to prevent retrograde filling of the pseudo-aneurysm and later, detachable coils were used to treat the aneurysmal sac. The final angiography showed an 80% exclusion of the pseudo-aneurysm. Subsequent Doppler ultrasound and CTA confirmed its complete occlusion. Additionally, a micotic aneurysm was ruled out after a labeled leukocyte scintigraphy.

The patient presented an excellent outcome, with no recurrent bleeding episodes, and was discharged in a week. After 1 year of follow-up the patient has not presented

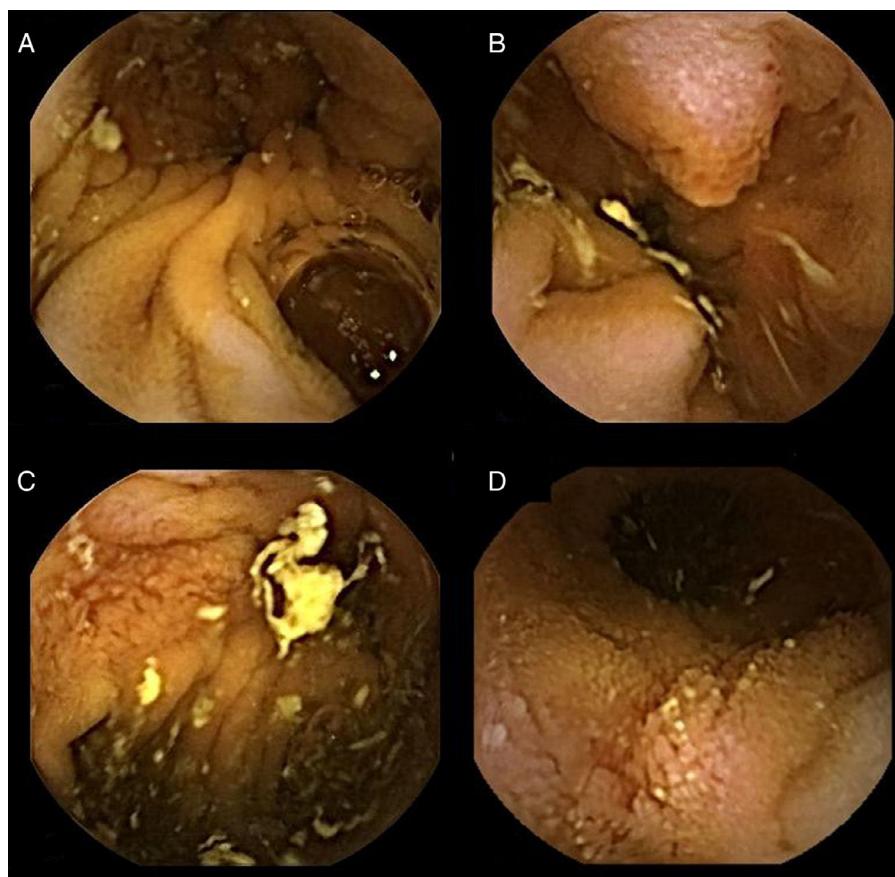


Figure 1 Capsule endoscopy findings. From left to right, CE showing a double lumen, due to the anastomosis of the transplanted duodenum to the recipient jejunum (A), a polypoid ampulla of Vater (B) and an atrophic mucosa area with ulcerative longitudinal and geographic lesions (C, D).

any rebleeding episode, Doppler ultrasound remains without changes, and the pancreas and kidney transplant continue to function properly.

This is a rare case of obscure gastrointestinal bleeding due to a donor pancreatic artery pseudo-aneurysm, complicated with an arterioenteric fistula.

There are few cases reported in the medical literature.⁴⁻⁷

The pseudo-aneurysms are serious, usually late-onset complications, which could be located at any intraparenchymal artery of the graft, at the interposed arterial graft or at the donor-recipient anastomosis and may debut as arterio-enteric fistula (duodenum-enteric bypass).

Clinical presentation is usually as a lower gastrointestinal bleeding (enteric bypass), right lower quadrant pain, pulsatile mass, sepsis (infectious etiology) and hemodynamic instability in case of rupture.

The diagnosis is usually made by Doppler ultrasound, CTA, MRA or DSA. The endovascular approach is becoming the treatment of choice due to the high risk of graft loss associated with open surgical correction. If the patient is stable and the origin of the aneurysm is not infectious it can be treated by angiographic embolization. In cases of hemodynamic instability (ruptured risk or recent rupture) or when embolization is not feasible, surgical treatment (transplantectomy) should be considered.⁸⁻¹¹

In this case, a small pseudo-aneurysm was diagnosed previously by CT examination but wall contact was not

demonstrated initially and bleeding was not suspected. SBCE showed the presence of ulcers at this level and an artero-enteric fissure of the donor artery pseudo-aneurysm was suspected. So we must highlight the superiority of the



Figure 2 CT image showing the pseudoaneurysm (*) originating from the anastomosis of the superior mesenteric artery of the pancreatic transplant (white arrow) with the Y graft of the donor. The patency of the splenic artery of the allograft (white arrowhead) can be seen.

capsule to visualize lesions like ulcers that go unnoticed by the radiology.

In conclusion, gastrointestinal bleeding due to a donor artery pseudo-aneurysm with arterio-enteric fistula is a severe complication in kidney-pancreas transplanted recipients, and although Doppler ultrasound, CTA, MRA angiography and arteriography are the main diagnostic studies, capsule endoscopy could play a role in selected cases if radiology studies are normal.

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Seudocirrosis en cáncer de mama metastásico



Pseudocirrhosis in metastatic breast cancer

La seudocirrosis es un término radiológico que hace referencia a una alteración de la morfología hepática que asemeja una cirrosis en ausencia de la histología típica en el estudio anatomopatológico¹. Esta entidad ha sido descrita mayormente en casos de cáncer de mama metastásico con o sin uso de quimioterapia sistémica (QT). Sin embargo se han visto casos similares en otras neoplasias como cáncer de páncreas, esófago y tiroides^{2–5}. Su prevalencia y el mecanismo exacto por el que se produce son aún desconocidos. Según los estudios publicados hasta el momento se ha propuesto que el cambio morfológico puede ser secundario tanto al efecto de la infiltración metastásica del tejido sano como a la toxicidad hepática de la QT⁶.

Presentamos el caso de una mujer de 39 años que ingresó en el servicio de digestivo en agosto 2015, por alteración del perfil hepático y hallazgo en TAC abdominal de afectación difusa del parénquima hepático.

Como antecedentes personales destacaba una mastectomía con linfadenectomía derecha por carcinoma ductal infiltrante pT1b(m) pN1a (RE–, RP, HER2+++ p53 [80%], Ki-67 [30%], BRCA–) en junio de 2012. Recibió tratamiento con QT adyuvante con 4 ciclos de ciclofosfamida + doxorubicina y, posteriormente, terapia combinada con docetaxel + trastuzumab durante 3 meses hasta marzo de 2013. Continuó con trastuzumab en monoterapia hasta completar un año, finalizando la quimioterapia en enero de 2014 y realizándose mastectomía profiláctica izquierda en junio de 2014. La paciente se mantuvo asintomática y con analíticas normales durante 26 meses de seguimiento, con una TAC toraco-abdominal en mayo de 2014 que fue rigurosamente normal.

Al ingreso la paciente presentaba un cuadro de 3 meses de astenia e ictericia sin ninguna otra sintomatología asociada, negando toma de tóxicos o fármacos. La exploración física fue normal y analíticamente destacaba una hipertransaminasemia con hiperbilirrubinemia a expensas de indirecta y serologías para virus EVB, CMV, VHB, VHA y VHC negativas. La TAC (fig. 1) realizada un mes previo al ingreso describía una afectación difusa del parénquima