Pancreatoscopy in Undiagnosed Pancreatic Disease

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INTRODUCTION

- Pancreatic pathology encompasses a broad differential and requires a multitude of diagnostic studies to accurately diagnose a specific condition.
- ERCP has been proven to be extremely helpful in the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic ductal disease.
- However in the event of conflicting data between pancreatography and non-invasive imaging, direct ductal visualization with pancreatoscopy should be considered.
- Previous literature has described a unique role of pancreatoscopy in the event of discrepancies noted on ERCP and CT imaging.
- We demonstrate a unique case in which a patient who had been diagnosed with a pancreatic stricture via ERCP was ultimately found to have stone disease discovered using pancreatoscopy.

CASE BACKGROUND

- A 72-year-old female with no significant medical history presented with radiating abdominal pain to her back with nausea and vomiting.
- Laboratory evaluation noted an elevated lipase of 6,570U/L with normal LFTs. All other basic labs were unremarkable.
- A contrast-enhanced abdominal CT study reported a 5mm mid-pancreatic duct (PD) stone causing acute distal pancreatitis (Figure 1). No gallstones or biliary dilation was noted which was confirmed via abdominal ultrasound.
- Unfortunately she failed conservative management and subsequently underwent endoscopic intervention with an ERCP. Pancreatogram revealed a stricture within the mid-PD without evidence of a stone (Figure 2). An internal flanged – external pigtail stent spanning the stricture was placed. Afterwards her symptoms gradually improved.

DISCUSSION

- Within the realm of pancreatic medicine, there are multiple investigate modalities which can be utilized to diagnose and often treat pancreatic pathology.
- With recent advances in biomedical technology, pancreatoscopy is a rather new and advanced method of diagnosing pancreatic ductal disease.
- It’s vast use has been well demonstrated in the literature with regards to PD stone disease, strictures, chronic pancreatitis, and neoplastic investigation.
- When faced with conflicting evidence between pancreatic imaging modalities, performing a pancreatoscopy is a great diagnostic tool which may assist with the management of patients with undiagnosed disease.

REFERENCES