

Pyogenic liver abscess as a complication of sigmoid polypectomy



Fig. 1 Computed tomographic view (coronal reconstruction) showing the pyogenic liver abscess in the right lobe of the liver.

A previously well 65-year-old man underwent a routine colonoscopy after being referred with diarrhea. A 15-mm pedunculated polyp was observed at the rectosigmoid junction and an uncomplicated polypectomy was performed; examination to the cecum was otherwise normal. He was discharged 3 hours after this procedure. Histological examination of the polyp revealed a tubulovillous adenoma with low-grade dysplasia. The patient returned 3 days later with fevers and rigors, but with no abdominal pain. The symptoms had begun 12 hours after the colonoscopy, and on admission he was found to be hypotensive and septic, with a low-grade fever. Clinical examination was unremarkable. He had a neutrophil leukocytosis of $43.6 \times 10^9/L$ and a C-reactive protein level of 218 mg/L, but liver function tests were normal. Blood cultures grew *Streptococcus milleri*, and appropriate antibiotic therapy was commenced. Despite this treatment, however, he continued to show signs of sepsis. Abdominal computed tomography 6 days after his colonoscopy demonstrated a multiloculated, right-lobe liver abscess (● Fig. 1), and 300 mL of purulent fluid was aspirated from this, which also grew *S. milleri*. After drainage of this abscess he made an uncomplicated recovery.

We believe that he developed the pyogenic liver abscess after the polypectomy. The likely pathophysiological mechanism was the development of a pylephlebitis following the polypectomy, with subsequent seeding to the liver. The abdominal computed tomographic scan was performed 6 days after the polypectomy, which was enough time for a large abscess to form. Pylephlebitis is a recognized complication of intra-abdominal infection and colonic perforation [1]. Indeed, pyogenic liver abscesses have been described as a presenting feature of colonic tubulovillous adenoma [2]. *S. milleri* is a common cause of liver abscess and this has been described as a complication following the colonoscopic removal of an impacted fish bone [3]. We believe this to be first case report of a *S. milleri* liver abscess complicating polypectomy of a tubulovillous adenoma in the sigmoid colon.

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