

A Rare Case of Walled-off Pancreatic Necrosis Complicated by Splenic Artery Rupture Manifested After Surgical Internal Drainage - Diagnostic and Therapeutic Aspects

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Abstract

Large walled-off pancreatic necrosis (WON) is a well-known complication of severe acute pancreatitis, and it is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. This is the case report of a rare and potentially fatal complication of WON - a delayed splenic artery rupture close to its origin after surgical drainage. A 44-year old male patient admitted in our Surgical Department and diagnosed with WON evolving without infection for 6 months, after an episode of acute pancreatitis, underwent a Roux-en-Y WON-jejunostomy. In the 4th postoperative day patient presented melanic stools and a selective celiac trunk angiography was performed with the suspicion of a bleeding from the WON. At the initial injection of contrast a small leakage of contrast was observed but did not reappear despite repeated injection. The procedure was aborted, and the patient put under close observation. The 6th postoperative day bleeding re-occurred, and the angiography indicated a breach in the splenic artery. As the patient developed hemodynamic instability in the Radiology Department he was immediately transferred into the operating room and an exploratory laparotomy with suture of the splenic artery was performed. The patient had an uneventful recovery and at one-year follow-up was without any particular problems.

Key words: pancreatic walled-off necrosis, acute pancreatitis, splenic artery, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, arterial embolization