Spontaneous Isolated Common Hepatic Artery Dissection

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Key words: common hepatic artery dissection, computed tomography

(Intern Med 55: 1507, 2016)
(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.55.6454)

A 66-year-old man presented with sudden lower back pain on both sides when in a sitting position. He had a medical history of appendicitis at 18 years of age and stomach cancer surgery at 56 years of age. He presented to our emergency department as the pain persisted. On abdominal examination, he presented with periumbilical tenderness with hypercavity bowel sounds, without tapping pain or muscle rigidity. Abdominal enhanced computed tomography revealed dissection of the common hepatic artery from the proximal portion to the proper hepatic artery bifurcation, but no abnormal findings were noted in the other arteries (Picture).

He was therefore transferred to the cardiovascular department of another hospital.

We believe that, in cases with a sudden onset of persistent back pain, particularly among patients with risk factors for arteriosclerosis, the use of diagnostic imaging is essential to detect the presence of common hepatic artery dissection.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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Received for publication August 25, 2015; Accepted for publication September 13, 2015

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