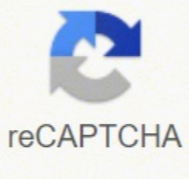




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Case Report

Peptic ulcer disease in pregnancy: A rare cause of rapidly progressing anemia in mid-trimester of pregnancy - A case report and literature review

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ABSTRACT

Peptic ulcer disease is a rare cause of rapidly progressing anaemia in pregnancy, especially during the second trimester of pregnancy. Making a definitive diagnosis in this group of patients is usually very taxing, especially when the common causes of anaemia in pregnancy such as Malaria, Sickle Cell Disease, Upper respiratory tract infection, nutritional anaemia, e.g., iron and folate deficiency anaemia and ruptured ectopic gestation are excluded. We present a rare cause of rapidly progressing mid-trimester severe anaemia in pregnancy secondary to peptic ulcer disease in pregnancy, along with the diagnostic challenges, multidisciplinary management, literature review, and the follow-up care.

Key words: Esophagogastroduodenoscopy; Haviana Specialist Hospital Limited; peptic ulcer disease in pregnancy; rapidly progressing severe anaemia.

Introduction

Peptic ulcer disease is quite uncommon in pregnancy and a rare cause of rapidly progressing anaemia in pregnancy. Making a definitive diagnosis and instituting timely and appropriate management may be quite challenging because of the remarkable anatomical and physiological changes that the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) has undergone during pregnancy and the safety of the investigating tools such as radiological investigations and restriction in drug use during pregnancy.

However, promptness in arriving at a definitive diagnosis and commencing appropriate management will prevent maternal and perinatal morbidities and mortalities in these patients.

This paper reports a rare cause of rapidly progressing severe anaemia in mid-trimester of pregnancy; secondary to peptic

ulcer disease in pregnancy, in a primigravida woman in a private tertiary health care facility in Lagos, Nigeria.

Case Report

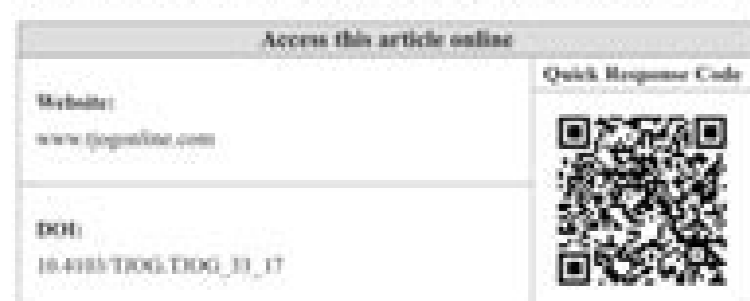
An unbooked 29-year-old G₁Po⁰ woman at 18 weeks gestation was admitted through our outpatient department with 2-day history of generalized body weakness, vomiting, and poor appetite. There was no history of bleeding per vaginam. She was not a known diabetic and there was no history of peptic ulcer disease. She was a known asthmatic and on inhaler use whenever she had an attack. Her last asthmatic attack was a year before presentation at our facility.

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Peptic Ulcer Disease: Descriptive Epidemiology, Risk Factors, Management and Prevention

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BACKGROUND

Peptic ulcer is a break (like a sore) in the lining of the stomach or the upper part of the small intestine [1], with a diameter of at least 0.5 cm penetrating through the muscularis mucosa. It is typically a non-fatal disease that majorly represented by symptoms of epigastric pain typically relieved by food or alkali, often exhibit periodicity. Peptic ulcers or PUDs are generally categorized based on their anatomical origin as gastric or duodenal. Gastric ulcers are found along the lesser curvature of the stomach, and duodenal ulcers usually occur in the duodenal bulb, the area most exposed to gastric acid [2]. *Helicobacter pylori* had been thought as the main etiological factor for 90% duodenal and 80% gastric ulcers [3]. With recent decline in prevalence in *H. pylori* in western countries, PUDs, especially gastric ulcers Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) and Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA) [4-5]. In this part of the world, the incidence of duodenal ulcers is approximately four-fold higher than gastric ulcers; constrictingly elsewhere, gastric ulcers are more common. Gastric ulcers predominantly arise in subjects over 40 years old whereas,

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Rebleeding after Initial Endoscopic Hemostasis in Peptic Ulcer Disease

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Endoscopic hemostasis is the first-line treatment for upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB). Although several factors are known to be risk factors for rebleeding, little is known about the use of anti-thrombotics. We tried to verify whether the use of anti-thrombotics affects rebleeding rate after a successful endoscopic hemostasis for peptic ulcer disease (PUD). UGIB patients who underwent successful endoscopic hemostasis were included. Rebleeding was diagnosed when the previously treated lesion bled again within 30 days of the initial episode. Of 522 UGIB patients with PUD, rebleeding occurred in 93 patients (17.8%). The rate of rebleeding was higher with aspirin medication ($P = 0.006$) and after a long endoscopic hemostasis ($P < 0.001$). Of all significant variables, procedure time longer than 13.5 min was related to the rate of rebleeding (OR, 2.899; 95% CI, 1.768-4.754; $P < 0.001$) on the logistic regression analysis. The rate of rebleeding after endoscopic hemostasis for PUD is higher in the patients after a long endoscopic hemostasis. Endoscopic hemostasis longer than 13.5 min is related to rebleeding after a successful endoscopic hemostasis for PUD.

Keywords: Hemostasis; Endoscopic; Peptic Ulcer; Rebleeding; Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding

INTRODUCTION

Upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB) remains one of the more common emergencies, despite recent advances in endoscopic techniques. The first-line therapy for UGIB is endoscopic hemostasis. However, even if this treatment is successful, subsequent rebleeding is not a rare event. Studies carried out to determine the predictors of rebleeding in patients with nonvariceal UGIB have revealed the following influential factors such as persistence of endoscopic stigmata, a large ulcer, failure to use a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) after the hemostasis, epinephrine monotherapy, postprocedure use of heparin, and liver cirrhosis [1-3]. In addition, a recent Korean study found that the significant risk factors were a lower hemoglobin level (≤ 9 g/dL), a relatively inexperienced therapeutic endoscopist (i.e., a career of < 2 yr), injection of large volumes of epinephrine (> 15 mL), epinephrine monotherapy, and comorbidities such as chronic renal disease or liver cirrhosis (4). However, some lesions rebleed despite the absence of any of these above factors.

While little is known about the effect of anti-thrombotics on the rate of rebleeding, the worldwide increase in the elderly population means that their use has become an important issue in gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy. A Japanese study has shown that GI bleeding occurs more frequently in Japanese patients who take aspirin, ticlopidine, and/or warfarin than in those with-

out these anti-thrombotics (5). That study found that the bleeding occurred in the esophagus or stomach, but not in the lower GI tract. Aspirin is known to irreversibly inhibit the action of cyclooxygenase-1, suppress both tissue prostaglandin synthesis and platelet production of thromboxane A₂, and increase the risk of bleeding (6). In addition, warfarin increases the rate of major extracranial hemorrhage, especially when there is a history of GI bleeding, concurrent use of antiplatelet or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, genetically different warfarin metabolism, a high international normalized ratio (INR), comorbid illnesses, or a long duration of medication (7). The aim of this study was to determine the risk factors for rebleeding after successful endoscopic hemostasis therapy for peptic ulcer disease (PUD) relative to the use of anti-thrombotics.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patients

UGIB patients due to PUD who underwent successful endoscopic hemostasis between August 2005 and September 2012 at our center were included in this study. Exclusion criteria were the failure of endoscopic hemostasis, cause of bleeding other than PUD, uncertain endoscopic findings, patients under 18 yr old, or lack of the follow-up data. Bleedings from malignancy were also excluded. The data were collected on the patient's past

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