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Endoscopic Treatment With Biologic Glue of Chronic Presacral Sinus After Low Anterior Resection^{☆,☆☆}

Tratamiento endoscópico con pegamento tisular biológico del seno presacro crónico tras resección anterior baja

Anastomotic dehiscence in rectal cancer is one of the most feared complications. In the long term, a presacral sinus can form that is difficult to manage. The advent of biological tissue adhesives for the treatment of complex fistulas can be an effective alternative for this type of complication. We present a case of anastomotic dehiscence after low anterior resection and the later formation of a chronic presacral sinus, which was resolved with the endoscopic application of a biological tissue adhesive.

The patient is a 67-year-old woman with no prior medical history of interest. After finalizing treatment with neoadjuvant chemo-radiotherapy, she was treated surgically for a rectal adenocarcinoma 7 cm from the anal margin by a laparoscopic low anterior resection with mechanical end-to-end anastomosis without protective ileostomy. The patient was discharged on the 4th day post-op. Three days later, she came to the emergency room with fever and abdominal pain. Abdominal CT scan showed dehiscence of the posterior side of the anastomosis. At reoperation abdominal cavity lavage with a protective ileostomy was performed.

During follow-up, colonoscopy and barium enema (Fig. 1) detected the formation of a presacral sinus on the posterior side of the anastomosis. The sinus was 0.6 cm wide and extended to 4 cm from the anastomosis. One year after surgery and in spite of conservative measures, the presacral sinus remained, which impeded the closure of the ileostomy. Given this situation, we used colonoscopy to carry out curettage of the presacral sinus in conjunction with the application of a cyanoacrylate biological tissue adhesive (Glubran 2®). Four weeks later, barium enema and follow-up colonoscopy confirmed the closure of the defect (Fig. 2). One month after this resolution, the ileostomy was closed without incident. The patient is currently

asymptomatic, with proper intestinal function and no recurrence of the disease.

Anastomotic dehiscence after resection of the rectum is a complication with an important morbidity and mortality. Its incidence varies between 5% and 30%.¹ One treatment strategy is the defunctionalization of the anastomosis with an ileostomy, which, although it does not avoid leaks, prevents serious septic complications. The use of protective ileostomy after low anterior resection, even after having received neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy, depends on the experience of the surgical team and the final result of the anastomosis.

With this management, most leaks resolve spontaneously, although in 1%–5% of cases they may lead to the appearance of a presacral sinus.² Symptomatic patients present inflammation or sepsis in the pelvic region and are usually studied with barium enemas and repeated colonoscopies to confirm resolution. There are risk factors, such as preoperative radiotherapy, which make resolution difficult. Complications may develop, including the formation of fistulas, periurethral fibrosis, infection of adjacent tissues and even malignant degeneration.³

For the treatment of this condition, Whitlow et al.³ described unroofing of the anastomosis by means of the division of the wall between the presacral sinus and the lumen of the adjacent bowel. In another series,⁴ however, intersphincteric resection of the rectal stump together with debriement of the sinus and omentoplasty or muscular flap is presented as the technique with the best results for healing. The Endo-SPONGE® system introduced by Weidenhagen et al.,⁵ based on vacuum suction through a sponge that is inserted in the presacral space, showed a high rate of success, although a later study performed to evaluate these long-term results observed up to 25% of recurring abscesses.⁶ Another study compared EndoVAC® with rectal lavage and drainage,

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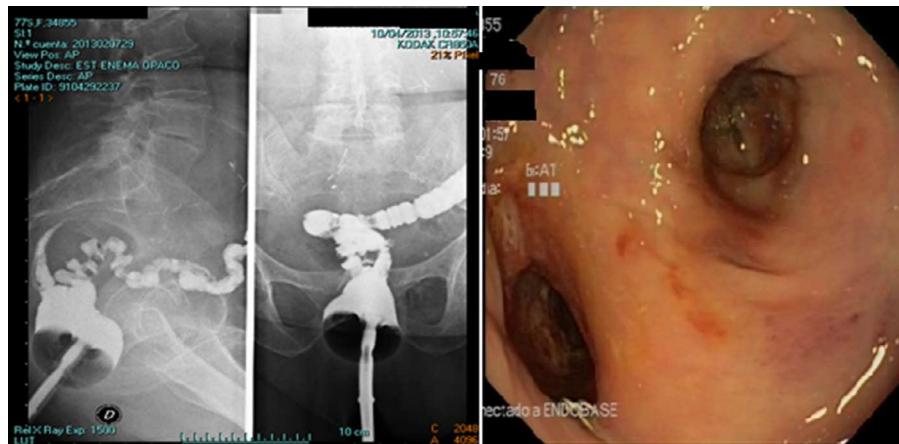


Fig. 1 – Barium enema and colonoscopy before treatment of the presacral sinus.

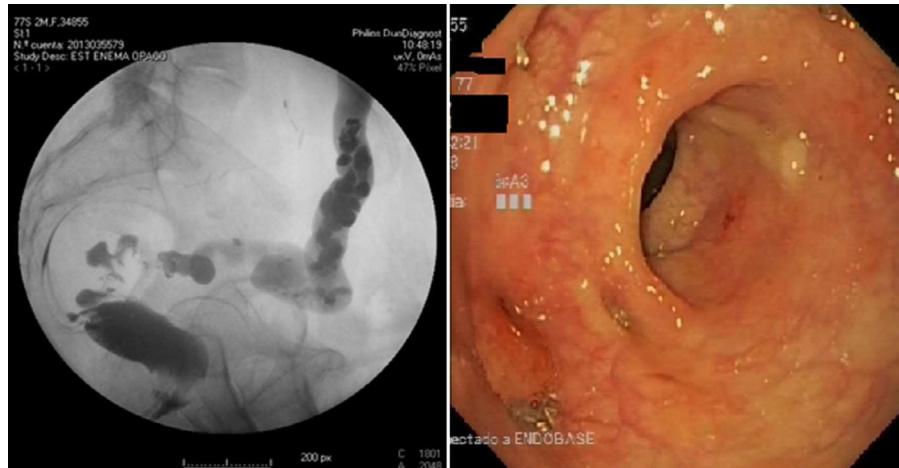


Fig. 2 – Barium enema and colonoscopy after treatment of the presacral sinus.

demonstrating that healing was significantly accelerated in the Endovac® group.⁷ When conservative treatment fails, “endoscopic stapled marsupialization” and endoscopic therapy with topical doxycycline injection are presented as effective alternatives.⁸ In the mid-1970s, the first endoscopic series were published of gastrointestinal fistula treatment using tissue adhesives (cyanoacrylate), which reported encouraging results.⁹

There is only one study published by Swain and Ellis¹⁰ with 7 patients where, as in this case, biological tissue adhesive was applied endoscopically for the treatment of a chronic presacral sinus after low anterior resection. As in our patient, their series reports healing of the sinus in all cases one week after the application of the treatment, and no cases of recurrence during 11 months of follow-up. This technique allowed for ileostomy closure 6–8 weeks after treatment.

Some authors postulate that this technique is only effective in cases with small cavities and tracts and is of little use in a large-cavity sinus with a small orifice. But the fact is that endoscopic treatment with biological tissue adhesive is a reliable, simple technique with low morbidity, low recurrence

rate and high success rate. The limited number of cases published about this treatment method and the lack of comparative studies make it difficult for the technique to become standardized.

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Intermittent Negative-pressure Therapy With Antibiotic Instillation for Necrotizing Fascitis of the Abdomen and Retroperitoneum due to an Infected Renal Hematoma[☆]

Terapia de presión negativa intermitente con instilación antibiótica en una fascitis necrosante de pared abdominal y retroperitoneal secundaria a hematoma renal derecho sobreinfectado

The present case reflects our experience in the use of intermittent negative-pressure wound therapy (NPWT) and instillation of antibiotics in a patient who had undergone several surgeries due to an infected renal hematoma that caused necrotizing fasciitis of the abdominal wall and retroperitoneal space. We believe that the excellent results obtained should promote research of this potentially valuable tool.

The patient is a 58-year-old male who was hospitalized in April 2012 due to urinary sepsis with a right subcapsular renal

hematoma after renal biopsy, which was treated conservatively. The patient was rehospitalized on November 2, 2012 due to lower right back pain, arterial hypotension (92/40 mmHg), acute renal insufficiency (creatinine: 5.32 mg/dl; urea: 230 mg/dl) and leukocytosis (21,400 µl and neutrophilia). Computed tomography (CT) identified a right perirenal heterogenous collection (8.7 cm×6.3 cm×15.2 cm) between the pararenal fascias that affected the psoas with renal compression, compatible with infected hematoma. Twenty-four hours later, a retroperitoneal percutaneous drain was inserted; 310 ml of

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