Basic Data Underlying Clinical Decision Making

SECTION EDITOR: Lloyd M. Taylor, Jr.

Common Splanchnic Artery Aneurysms: Splenic, Hepatic, and Celiac

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Aneurysms involving the splanchnic arteries represent an uncommon and potentially lethal form of vascular disease. Because they frequently present as life-threatening clinical emergencies, a clear understanding of the presentation and management of these aneurysms is essential for the practicing vascular surgeon. The purpose of this review was to document recent changes in the diagnosis and management of common splanchnic artery aneurysms.

Traditionally the most commonly reported splanchnic artery aneurysms have involved, in decreasing order of frequency, the splenic, hepatic, and celiac arteries.1 We reviewed the English language literature for the past 10 years (1985 to 1995) for reports of these lesions. Interestingly, in contrast to previously published series, aneurysms of the hepatic arteries were the most frequently reported splanchnic artery aneurysms in the past decade. This trend probably relates to the increasing use of percutaneous diagnostic and therapeutic biliary tract procedures. During these procedures, injury to the intrahepatic branches of the hepatic artery can lead to the development of false aneurysms of these vessels. In addition to these iatrogenic false aneurysms, the increased use of diagnostic CT scanning following blunt liver trauma has also led to increased detection of posttraumatic false aneurysms of the intrahepatic arterial

branches. Subsequent rupture of these false aneurysms into the biliary tree frequently presents as life-threatening gastrointestinal hemorrhage (hemobilia). Coincidentally, recent advances in percutaneous catheter-based therapy for these lesions has also undoubtedly contributed to the increased number of hepatic artery aneurysms reported in the literature. Thus it is not surprising that nearly 50% of all hepatic artery aneurysms reported within the past decade are false aneurysms of the intraheptic arterial branches. Furthermore, the vast majority of these lesions were managed percutaneously. If these iatrogenic and posttraumatic false aneurysms are excluded from the analysis, the distribution of true splanchnic artery aneurysms has actually varied little from that in previously reported series.

The presentation and treatment of splenic and celiac artery aneurysms has changed little over the past decade. The risk of rupture of true splenic artery aneurysms remains low except in pregnant women where they continue to be a serious threat to both the mother and the fetus. Splenic artery aneurysms are being treated increasingly by catheter-based techniques, whereas celiac aneurysms are still treated by open surgical techniques.

Because splanchnic artery aneurysms are so uncommon, very few series have been reported involving more than 30 cases at a single institution. Thus in the past decade most of the cases reported in the literature consist of single case reports or small series of 10 cases or less. This introduces obvious biases in favor of unusual presentations and positive outcomes. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the majority of splanchnic artery aneurysms still present with

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frank rupture and that rupture frequently results in the death of the patient. Therefore a continued aggressive approach to the diagnosis and management of these unusual aneurysms is clearly warranted. Finally, it is now quite clear that percutaneous catheter-based therapy will play an increasingly prominent role in the management of these lesions in the future.

Tables I to VII present summary data for

Table I. Hepatic artery aneurysms: Age

	Mean	Range
Age (yr)	52	2-93

Table II. Hepatic artery aneurysms: Demographics

Characteristics	No.	Percent
Men	54	55
Women	44	45
Ruptured	66	65
Mortality (overall)	16	16
Mortality (ruptured)	14	21†

^{*}Percentage of total cases.

Table III. Hepatic artery aneurysms: Clinical presentation

Symptoms	No.	Percent
Abdominal pain	57	55
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage/he- mobilia	47	46
Jaundice	9	9
Mass	6	6
Asymptomatic	2	2
Shock	7	7
Not stated	1	1

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one symptom).

hepatic artery aneurysms (103 cases) reported in the English literature between 1985 and 1995. 2-72

Tables VIII to XIV present summary data for splenic artery aneurysms (83 cases) reported in the English literature from 1985 to 1995. 73-106

Tables XV to XX present summary data for celiac artery aneurysms (29 cases) reported in the English literature from 1985 to 1995. 107-124

Table IV. Hepatic artery aneurysms: Diagnostic techniques

Technique	No.	Percent*
Arteriography	74	72
CT scan	18	17
Ultrasound	11	11
Autopsy	2	2
Other	3	3
Laparotomy	21	20

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one diagnostic technique).

Table V. Hepatic artery aneurysms: Treatment modality

Modality	No.	Percent*
Aneurysmectomy	28	27
Bypass/revascu-	15	15
larization		
Ligation	37	36
Aneurysmor-	4	4
rhaphy		
Lobectomy	2	2
None	3	3
Embolization	38	37
Not stated	3	3

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one treatment modality).

[†]Percentage of ruptured cases.

Table VI. Hepatic artery aneurysms: Aneurysm characteristics

Characteristics	No.	Percent*
Туре		
True	33	40
False	41	49
Mycotic	3	4
Inflammatory	6	7
FMD, CMN	1	1
Not stated	19	
Location		
CHA	21	22
PHA	16	16
RHA	46	47
LHA	13	13
Cystic	1	1
Not stated	6	
Intrahepatic	32	34
Extrahepatic	61	66
Not stated	10	
Distribution		
Multiple	9	10
Solitary	86	91
Not stated	8	

CHA = common hepatic artery; CMN = cystic medial necrosis; FMD = fibromuscular dysplasia; LHA = left hepatic artery; PHA = proper hepatic artery; RHA = right hepatic artery.

Table VII. Hepatic artery aneurysms: Common associated conditions

Condition	No.	Percent*
Liver transplant	17	17
Percutaneous biliary	10	10
Catheter/biopsy		
Pancreatitis	11	11
Cholecystectomy	11	11
Abdominal trauma	8	8

^{*}Percentage of total cases.

Table VIII. Splenic artery aneurysms: Age

	Mean	Range
Age (yr)	52	2-93

Table IX. Splenic artery aneurysms: Demographics

Characteristics	No.	Percent*
Men	28	34
Women	55	66
Ruptured	42	51
Mortality (overall)	15	18
Mortality (ruptured)	15	36†

^{*}Percentage of total cases.

Table X. Splenic artery aneurysms: Clinical presentation

Symptoms	No.	Percent*
Abdominal pain	38	46
Shock	21	25
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	11	13
Back pain	5	6
Asymptomatic	17	20
Other	3	4
Not stated	7	8

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one symptom).

Table XI. Splenic artery aneurysms: Diagnostic techniques

Technique	No.	Percent*
Arteriography	43	52
CT scan	15	18
Ultrasound	6	7
Autopsy	9	11
Other (abdominal x-ray, MRI)	2	2
Not stated	l	1
Laparotomy	22	27

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one diagnostic technique).

^{*}Percentage of total cases for which data are available.

[†]Percentage of ruptured cases.

Table XII. Splenic artery aneurysms: Treatment modality

Modality	No.	Percent*
Aneurysmectomy	22	27
Bypass	1	1
Ligation	18	22
Reanastomosis	1	1
Pancreatectomy	5	6
None	12	15
Embolization	10	12
Not stated	1	1
Splenectomy	39	47

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one treatment modality).

Table XIII. Splenic artery aneurysms: Aneurysm characteristics

Туре	No.	Percent*
Туре		
True	60	72
False	9	11
Mycotic	1	1
Fibromuscular	3	4
dysplasia		
Not stated	10	12
Location		
Distal	20	35
Mid	25	44
Proximal	1	2
Multiple	10	18
Not stated	26	

^{*}Percentage of 57 cases for which location was available.

Table XIV. Splenic artery aneurysms: Common associated conditions

Condition	No.	Percent*
Pregnancy	22	27
Portal hypertension	28	34
Pancreatitis	8	10

^{*}Percentage of total cases.

Table XV. Celiac artery aneurysms: Age

	Mean	Range
Age (yr)	56	18-86

Table XVI. Celiac artery aneurysms: Demographics

Characteristics	No.	Percent*
Men	19	66
Women	10	34
Ruptured	2	7
Mortality (overall)	4	14
Mortality (ruptured)	2	100+

^{*}Percentage of total cases.

Table XVII. Celiac artery aneurysms: Clinical presentation

Symptoms	No.	Percent*
Abdominal pain	20	69
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	1	3
Jaundice	3	10
Mass	1	3
Asymptomatic	4	14
Other	3	10
Hemoptysis	2	7

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one symptom).

Table XVIII. Celiac artery aneurysms: Diagnostic techniques

Technique	No.	Percent*
Arteriography	25	86
CT scan	11	38
Ultrasound	12	41
Autopsy	2	7
Other	l	3
Not stated	0	0
Laparotomy	2	7

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one diagnostic technique).

[†]Percentage of ruptured cases.

Table XIX. Celiac artery aneurysms: Treatment modality

Modality	No.	Percent*
Aneurysmectomy	20	69
Bypass	9	31
Ligation	5	17
Aneurysmor-	3	10
rhaphy		
Reimplantation	2	7
None	3	10
Embolization	l	3
Other	2	7

^{*}Percentage of total cases (some cases may have had more than one treatment modality).

Table XX. Celiac artery aneurysms: Aneurysm type

Type	No.	Percent*
True	16	55
False	3	10
Mycotic	4	14
Inflammatory	2	7
Fibromuscular dysplasia	1	3
Not stated	3	10

^{*}Percentage of total cases.

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