

Post Roux-En-Y gastric bypass chronic abdominal pain with multiple Intra-operative causes: Video Case- Report

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Abstract

Post-Roux-en-Y (RY) gastric bypass abdominal pain can be due to a diversity of reasons. This complication is under-reported and sometimes hard to diagnose. We present a video case with possible causes and their management.

Keywords: RYGB, Abdominal pain, Internal Hernia, Candy Cane Syndrome

Introduction

Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) is the gold standard in bariatric surgery [9]. Post-operative weight loss, co-morbidity resolution and quality of life (QoL) factors following RYGB have been thoroughly reported [1]. However, postoperative chronic abdominal pain is under-researched in the literature [2]. A large study of 1429 patients showed that abdominal pain is the most common symptom (34%) for patients who contact their treating bariatric teams for assistance [1,3]. Possible causes are cholelithiasis, anastomotic ulcers, internal hernia and candy cane syndrome [4-7].

We present a video case of post-RYGB chronic abdominal pain where we found some of these causes intra-operatively. Furthermore, we conducted surgical management to ensure the complete resolution of symptoms afterwards.

Case Report

A 49-year-old woman who had a RYGB in 2011 with a biliopancreatic limb of 60 cm and an alimentary limb of 120 cm. Her initial body mass index (BMI) on the day of surgery was 43.2 kg/m², and her BMI upon examination in this study was 32 kg/m². She has had regular follow-ups after surgery. Two years ago, her left-upper-quadrant and central abdominal pain became intolerable. The pain was colicky in nature, was associated with bloating and was aggravated by eating. She denied any symptoms of reflux or diarrhoea but had always complained of some dyspepsia.

She underwent esophagogastroduodenoscopy, which showed a small pouch about 6 cm in length, a wide gastrojejunostomy with no ulceration and a 5 cm hockey stick. A gastrografen study and computed tomography (CT) scan of the abdomen with oral and IV contrast revealed no clear abnormalities.

A diagnostic laparoscopy was performed, and the finding was a 6 cm candy cane at the gastrojejunostomy which was amputated using linear stapler. A 5 cm blind end found at the jejunojunction was resected using linear stapler. A wide-open Petersen's and a small mesenteric defect found during the jejunojunction were present with no internal herniation. Both defects were closed using 0-0 non-absorbable sutures. In addition, the omental adhesion band in the lower abdomen was taken down, and there was about a 2 cm defect in the anterior abdominal that

was closed with a 0-0 non-absorbable suture intracorporeally and using the transfascial closing device.

Recovery was uneventful, and she was discharged on postoperative day 1. She was followed up with at the clinic 4 months later, and her abdominal pains had resolved.

Conclusion

Post-RYGB non-specific chronic abdominal pain might be difficult to diagnose [8]. The differential diagnoses include candy cane syndrome, open mesenteric defects with intermittent internal hernia and blind syndrome [4,6,7]. We believe the surgical technique during primary surgery plays a role in the prevention of such causes. Diagnostic laparoscopy should be considered, especially if investigations show no abnormalities.

Approvals

IRB approval was obtained.

Consent from the patient was obtained.

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Nil.

Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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