MESENTERIC ISCHEMIA IN PATIENT WITH TRAUMATIC DISSECTING AORTICANEURYSM

Eun Uk Jung¹, Sang-Hoon Seol²*, Guang Won Seo², Pil-Sang Song², Dong-Kie Kim², Ki-Hun Kim², Sung-Yeun Yang², Doo-Il Kim², Chul Hoi Jeong³ and Ho-Ki Min⁴

¹Department of Internal Medicine, Inje University College of Medicine, Busan Paik Hospital, Busan, Korea.
²Department of Internal Medicine, Inje University College of Medicine, Haeundae Paik Hospital, Busan, Korea.
³Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inje University College of Medicine, Haeundae Paik Hospital, Busan, Korea.
⁴Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Inje University College of Medicine, Haeundae Paik Hospital, Busan, Korea.

Corresponding Author:- Sang-Hoon Seol
E-mail: hacemed@hanmail.net

ABSTRACT
Traumatic aortic injury is one of the fatal cardiovascular diseases. This can lead to aortic dissection, rupture or decreased blood flow to various organs such as brain, heart, kidney and bowels. Mesenteric ischemia is one of the most serious complications of aortic dissection. Lack of significant signs in the early phases may be lead to delayed diagnosis. Therefore, early diagnosis and treatment before the ischemia is important to decrease in the mortality and morbidity.

INTRODUCTION
Traumatic aortic injury complicated by intestinal ischemia is very difficult to manage and high mortality has been reported [1]. Ischemic necrosis due to visceral circulation is the most severe complication of acute aortic injury. Symptoms and signs of intestinal ischemia are often atypical or lacking. Optimal treatment is still not clearly established for the ischemic enterocolitis. Therefore, the early diagnosis and management is needed to reduce the mortalities.

CASE
A 65-year-old man with a past history of heavy smoking, hypertension and diabetes who was referred to our hospital for evaluation of severe abdominal pain. He had a history of abdominal trauma 2 months ago due to fall down. Physical examination demonstrated heart rate 110 beats/min, blood pressure 100/60 mm Hg, body temperature 36.7°C. Electrocardiogram showed left ventricular hypertrophy (Fig. 1). Chest X-ray revealed tortuous aortic arch and dilated thoracic aorta (Fig. 2). Echocardiography showed huge fusiform aneurysmal dilatation (maximal diameter: 6.3 cm) with mural thrombus in the subcostal view. There was little color flow signal in the upper abdominal aorta (Fig. 3). Chest abdominopelvic CT showed thoraco abdominal aortic dissection extending from just distal portion of left subclavian artery to the distal right common iliac aorta with compression of true lumen. There was marked thrombosis in the false lumen (Fig. 4). The patient’s condition rapidly deteriorated with increasingly severe abdominal pain, abdominal distension and bloody diarrhea. The patient underwent emergency operation. However, He died from multi-organ failure caused by septic shock.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION
Traumatic abdominal aortic injury is rare but
often fatal. Aortic dissection is associated with major blunt intra-abdominal injury. The incidence of mesenteric ischemia caused by aortic dissection is uncommon and has been reported to 5% [2]. Patients with blunt abdominal aortic injuries sometimes showed a delayed presentation due to atypical or insignificant symptoms or signs. Therefore, once intestinal necrosis occurs, the mortality rate becomes very high. Contrast enhanced CT has become the standard tool of evaluating traumatic aortic injuries. It shows the presence of dissection flaps, intramural hematoma and active extravasation. The survival rate is still low despite advances in diagnosis and various treatments such as endovascular stent graft or surgical treatment. Early diagnosis and appropriate management before the ischemia is very important to increase the survival rate [3].

Fig 1. Electrocardiogram revealed left ventricular hypertrophy

Fig 2. Chest X-ray demonstrated tortuous and dilated thoracic aorta

Fig 3. Echocardiography showed huge aneurysmal change with mural thrombus in the subcostal view

Fig 4. Chest-abdomino-pelvic CT showed thoraco abdominal aortic dissection extending from just distal portion of left subclavian artery to the distal right common iliac aorta with compression of true lumen
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CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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All procedures performed in human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. This article does not contain any studies with animals performed by any of the authors.

REFERENCES