TECHNICAL REPORT

Combined Surgical and Endovascular Treatment of Pseudoaneurysms of the Visceral Arteries and of the Left Iliac Arteries after Thoracoabdominal Aortic Surgery

T. Juvonen∗, F. Biancari†, K. Ylönenv, J. Perälä§, J. Rimpiläinen† and M. Lepojärvi†

1Department of Cardio-thoracic and Vascular Surgery, and 2Department of Radiology, Oulu University Hospital, University of Oulu, 90221–Oulu, Finland

Introduction

Aortic para-anastomotic pseudoaneurysm (AP) is a clinical entity recognised with increasing frequency, reoperation being associated with high operative mortality rates. An alternative procedure to regrafting procedure has been successfully recently employed in our patient.

Technique and Results

A 60-year-old man who 10 years earlier underwent replacement of a thoracoabdominal type B dissecting aortic aneurysm with a Dacron graft, was admitted for an 8 cm pseudoaneurysm involving the coeliac axis, the superior mesenteric artery (SMA) and the right renal artery, and a 3 cm pseudoaneurysm involving the left iliac arteries (Fig. 1). During the primary procedure, the coeliac axis, the SMA and the right renal artery were anastomosed as a single inclusion patch, and the left renal artery separately. A bifurcated graft was then anastomosed to the iliac arteries.

The patient had a history of heavy smoking, alcohol abuse, severe, untreated hypertension, pneumonia, and gastric resection for gastric bleeding.

During the last year, the patient complained of several episodes of abdominal and right flank pain associated with vomiting and weight loss of about

Fig. 1. CT scan showing pseudoaneurysms involving the coeliac axis, the superior mesenteric artery and the left iliac arteries.

∗Please address all correspondence to: T. Juvonen, Department of Cardio-thoracic and Vascular Surgery, Oulu University Hospital, P.O. Box 22, 90221 Oulu, Finland.
Fig. 3. Picture summarising the final technical result.

graft feeding the coeliac axis and the SMA. Postoperatively, serum creatinine levels were normal. On the 5th postoperative day, the patient underwent endovascular treatment of the pseudoaneurysms. Preplacement angiography showed a minor leak from the coeliac axis despite it was ligated during surgery. Coil embolisation of the coeliac axis and of the left internal iliac artery was performed. A 34 mm stent-graft was inserted into the aortic prosthesis and a 16–12 mm stent-graft into the left common and external iliac arteries (Excluder, W. L. Gore & Associates) (Fig. 3). The final angiogram showed no perigraft leaks. The patient made an uneventful recovery and was discharged on the 19th postoperative day. At 6-month follow-up, the patient was asymptomatic and gained 6 kg weight.

Discussion

The choice of suture material (silk, braided polyester), prosthesis dilatation (Dacron), type of anastomosis (end-to-side), bypass grafting for lower limb ischemia, vessel versus graft compliance mismatch, infection, complicated postoperative course and α1-antitrypsin deficiency have been found to be risk factors associated with the development of para-anastomotic pseudoaneurysms which are usually detected more than 8 years after aortic surgery.1

Before the introduction of endovascular stent-grafting, surgical regrafting was the only method of repair. However, surgical treatment of this condition, both in elective and emergency setting, is associated with high morbidity and mortality rates.2,3 It is likely that the operative risk is higher in those APs involving the visceral arteries as suggested by several failed attempts described in the literature.

van der Molen et al.3 reported a case of para-anastomotic pseudoaneurysm of the supraceliac abdominal aorta which developed 6 years after aortorenal bypass reconstruction. The attempt to aortic regrafting with revascularisation of the SMA was not successful. Lundblom et al.2 reported a pseudoaneurysm of the suprarenal aorta in a patient who 10
years earlier underwent graft replacement of a type III thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysm. This patient underwent a combined surgical and endovascular approach similar to that herein described, but their patient died postoperatively probably because of visceral ischaemia.2

Interestingly, Inoue et al.3 have successfully inserted a branched stent-graft for the management of an AP close to the coeliac axis. However, the endovascular approach alone would not have been feasible for a pseudoaneurysm involving several abdominal aortic branches as in the patient herein reported.

This observation suggests the feasibility of an endovascular approach in the management of APs involving visceral arteries in poor-risk patients and/or hostile surgical field, provided that an adequate, preliminary visceral revascularisation is carried out.

References