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EDITOR'S QUIZ: GI SNAPSHOTS.....

Malignant masquerade of the biliary confluence

Robin Spiller, Editor

Clinical presentation

A 70-year-old man presented with a 6-week history of jaundice and pruritus that developed progressively. No previous medical history was noted. Physical examination showed a weight loss of 3 kg/6 weeks and jaundice. Biological tests showed cholestasis with γ -glutamyl transpeptidase levels at 604 IU/l (normal <43 IU/l), alkaline phosphatase levels at 443 IU/l (normal <126 IU/l), total bilirubin levels at 123 μ m/l (normal <22 μ m/l) and carbohydrate antigen 19–9 levels raised at 498 IU/ml (normal <37 IU/ml).

Abdominal ultrasonography showed dilated intrahepatic bile ducts and an acalculous non-distended gallbladder. Helical CT scan showed an obstruction at the hilar level with major upstream dilatation of the intrahepatic biliary tree without evidence of mass. Endoscopic retrograde cholangiography was done (fig 1).

Question

What is the diagnosis and management?

See page 389 for answer

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Figure 1 A tight stenosis of the hepatic hilum with dilatation of the intrahepatic ducts.

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