

Anorectal Emergencies: Perianal Abscess

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Abstract

Anorectal emergencies refer to anorectal disorders presenting with some alarming symptoms such as acute anal pain and bleeding which might require an immediate management. Emergencies such as acutely thrombosed external hemorrhoid, thrombosed or strangulated internal hemorrhoid, bleeding hemorrhoid, bleeding anorectal varices, anal fissure, irreducible or strangulated rectal prolapse, anorectal abscess, perineal necrotizing fasciitis (Fournier gangrene), retained anorectal foreign bodies and obstructing rectal cancer. In this study we present our ambulatory management of perianal abscess. Fifty-two consecutive cases included this study. The patients admitted to outpatient clinic with anal pain, lump and/or purulent leak. All patients has diagnosed perianal abscess with physical examination. Patients has transferred the ambulatory surgery department for drainage. All abscesses drained at the bedside. Postoperative 1 patient admitted emergency service with anal pain which controlled NSAID injection. 1 patient presented with recurrent anal abscess on 8th postoperative day. No intra/postoperative bleeding/need for secondary powder application or postoperative anal incontinence detected. The main management of perianal abscess is surgical drainage. We present our series of perianal abscess treated with abscess drainage as day-care surgery with review of literature.

Keywords: Perianal Abscess; Anorectal Emergencies; Drainage

Introduction

Anorectal emergencies refer to anorectal disorders presenting with some alarming symptoms such as acute anal pain and bleeding which might require an immediate management [1]. Emergencies such as acutely thrombosed external hemorrhoid, thrombosed or strangulated internal hemorrhoid, bleeding hemorrhoid, bleeding anorectal varices, anal fissure, irreducible or strangulated rectal prolapse, anorectal abscess, perineal necrotizing fasciitis (Fournier gangrene), retained anorectal foreign bodies and obstructing rectal cancer [1]. In this study we present our ambulatory management of perianal abscess.

Patients and Methods

Fifty-two consecutive cases included this study. The patients admitted to outpatient clinic with anal pain, lump and/or purulent leak. All patients has diagnosed perianal abscess with physical examination. Patients has transferred the ambulatory surgery

department for drainage. All abscesses drained at the bedside under local anesthesia. 2% prilocaine hydrochloride used for local anesthesia. At prone-jackknife position the abscess has drained with no:11 surgical blade. The abscess cavity irrigated with saline solution and debridement performed. Hemostasis obtained with hemostatic powder (Arista™, Bard, USA/Oxigel Powder, Betatech Med, Istanbul, Turkey) packing inside the cavity. If hemorrhagia continues secondary application of powder then electrocauterisation planned. After procedure all patients has prescribed antibiotics and analgesic/anti-inflammatory drugs. After 4 hours of resting at ambulatory surgery clinic the patients discharged. All patients has evaluated in respect of perioperative complications from patients files retrospectively.

Results

All patients with perianal abscess also examined with rigid rectoscopy, in respect of anal fissure, perianal fistula, perianal hema-

toma, pruritus ani, thrombosed piles, rectal ulcers for Crohn's disease, solitary rectal ulcer, fecal impaction, proctitis, rectal prolapse, anorectal malignancy. 2 patient diagnosed anal fissure, 3 patient hemorrhoidal disease and 1 patient solitary rectal ulcer. During drainage no intraoperative complication has occurred. Patients followed at least 10 days. Postoperative 1 patient admitted emergency service with anal pain which controlled NSAID injection. 1 patient presented with recurrent anal abscess on 8th postoperative day. No intra/postoperative bleeding/need for secondary powder application or postoperative anal incontinence detected.

Discussion and Conclusion

Anorectal abscesses are collections of pus within the dermis and deeper skin tissues, most often due to cryptoglandular infection or associated inflammatory bowel disease. Perianal abscesses are the most common type of anorectal abscess [2]. Patients with anorectal abscess may have discomfort and even severe pain. The incidence of anorectal abscess varies among countries and areas. It affects an estimated 18,000 patients in the UK every year [2] and the annual incidence is 16.1 per 100,000 in Sweden [2].

About 90% of idiopathic perianal abscesses occur because of infection of the cryptoglobular glands [3-5]. Most occur posteriorly and in the intersphincteric space, where the anal glands are located. Abscesses are classified as superficial or deep in relation to the anal sphincter. If the infection bursts through the external sphincter, it will form an ischiorectal abscess. If it spreads laterally on both sides it can form a collection of sepsis, which forms a 'horseshoe' around the sphincters [3-5]. Superior extension (supralevator abscess) beyond the puborectalis or the levators is rare and may represent iatrogenic injury (such as inadvertent injury from a fistula probe) [3-6] presentations of abscesses are perianal (up to 60%) and ischiorectal [3]. Great percentage of these patients present with anal pain. Anal pain is among the most frequent complaints referred in coloproctology clinic [7,8]. The pain originated from the anal canal or the perianal region may also present great variability as far as the origin of the etiology of this symptom. Anal fissure, perianal fistula, anorectal abscesses as well as perianal hematoma are among the most frequent causes of pain at the perianal region [7-9]. Less common causes of anal pain may include pruritus ani, thrombosed piles, Crohn's disease, solitary rectal ulcer syndrome, fecal impaction, proctitis, rectal prolapse, anorectal malignancy, as well as chronic idiopathic syndromes, such as levator ani syndrome, coccygodynia, and proctalgia fugax [7-10].

The main management of perianal abscess is surgical drainage. We present our series of perianal abscess treated with abscess drainage as day-care surgery with review of literature.

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