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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

Manuscript NO: 88181

Manuscript Type: CASE REPORT

Treatment of hemolymphangioma by robotic surgery: A case report

hemolymphangioma of jejunum : a case report

Tianning Li, Yanhong Liu, Jia Zhao, hong mu, lei cao

Abstract

BACKGROUND

Hemolymphangioma

CASE SUMMARY

A male patient was admitted to hospital due to abdominal distension and abdominal pain, but a specific diagnosis by computed tomography examination was not obtained. Partial resection of the small intestine was performed by robotic surgery, and postoperative pathological biopsy confirmed the **hemolymphangioma**. No recurrence in the follow-up examination was observed.

CONCLUSION

Robotic surgery is an effective way to treat **hemolymphangioma** through minimally invasive techniques under the concept of rapid rehabilitation

Key Words: robotic surgery; jejunum; Hemolymphangioma; DBE

Li T, Liu Y, Zhao J, mu H, cao L. Treatment of hemolymphangioma by robotic surgery: A case report. *World J Gastrointest Surg* 2023; In press

Core Tip: Endoscopy and CT are often used for the diagnosis of hemolymphangioma of the jejunum. Laparotomy is a traditional treatment for this tumor. Our study is the first to introduce robotic surgical techniques, bringing new possibilities for the treatment of this tumor. This procedure can reduce surgical trauma and pain, and accelerate recovery. In addition, robotic surgery can also improve the accuracy of the procedure. The presented patient recovered quickly and had no serious complications. Our results indicate that robotic surgery for jejunal angiolangioma is feasible, and provides better treatment options for the patients

INTRODUCTION

Hemolymphangioma occurs in the transition area between the lymphatic system and the vascular system of the human body. The lesion site forms a cystic tumor composed of lymphatic vessels and blood vessels, commonly seen in the skin, soft tissues and internal organs. The etiology of this disease is unknown, but is related to innate factors. In clinical presentation, the symptoms of hemolymphangioma vary according to the site and extent of the lesion. Some patients may have local swelling, pain, and compression, while others may not have obvious symptoms. For those presenting with obvious symptoms, surgical resection is a commonly used treatment. Diagnosis of this tumor is based on the patient's clinical manifestations and imaging examination findings. Imaging examinations, including ultrasound, CT, MRI, *etc.*, can show the size, location, relationship with the surrounding tissues, and whether there is metastasis. The diseased tissue is obtained by surgical resection or needle biopsy for histological examination to determine the nature and type of the lesion. Surgical resection is a common treatment for hemolymphangioma. In our case, robotic surgery was applied for the first time. Under the concept of ERAS, we achieved a good combination of minimally invasive and radical ²resection.

CASE PRESENTATION

Chief complaints

Abdominal pain for 1 wk

History of present illness

A 47-year-old man visited another hospital due to abdominal pain for two days, and abdominal computed tomography (CT) suggested a small intestine-occupying lesion. The patient was then admitted to our hospital for further examination on November 23, 2022. The abdominal pain occurred without obvious predisposing factors, and was not attributed to diet. Symptoms, such as abdominal distension and fever were absent. The patient was healthy prior to admission.

History of past illness

no

Personal and family history

no

Physical examination

Mild tenderness in the upper abdomen, without rebound tenderness or muscular tension was revealed on physical examination. In addition, the liver and spleen were not palpable.

Laboratory examinations

Routine blood parameters, biochemical functions, tumor markers, and blood gas findings were normal.

Imaging examinations

An enhanced CT scan showed significant localized annular enhancement in the left pelvic small bowel wall. The lumen was narrowed, and the outer wall of the small bowel was rough in texture. In addition, the adjacent mesentery was thickened with

increased density, and slightly large lymph nodes were faintly visible inside the mesentery. No dilation of the proximal intestine was observed.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS

Pathological examination revealed a jejunal hemolymphangioma, and immunohistochemical staining was positive for both D2-40 and CD32.

TREATMENT

Robot-assisted laparoscopic partial small bowel resection and lymph node dissection were performed under general anesthesia. During laparoscopic exploration, no significant ascites was found within the abdominal cavity, while the greater omentum was adhered to the right abdomen. Following release of the adhesion, the small bowel wall, approximately 250 cm away from Treitz ligament and 70 cm away from the ileocecum, was found to be thickened with a hard texture and a diameter of approximately 3 cm. There was no serosal invasion or obvious adhesion to surrounding tissues. Multiple enlarged lymph nodes were found within the small intestinal mesentery. Further exploration showed no significant organic changes or metastases in the liver, gallbladder, spleen, other small intestinal areas, colon and abdominopelvic cavity. The lines of resection were set 10 cm away from each end of the intestinal mass. The small intestinal mesentery was exposed by dissection, and the thicker vessel was clamped using a HemoLock clip. After resection, side-to-side anastomosis was performed. The stump was carefully treated to stop bleeding, and the seromuscular layer was embedded to reduce tension. The two horns of the stump were treated with half purse-string sutures to close the mesentery.

OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

The patient underwent repeat abdominal enhanced CT which showed unobstructed anastomotic healing and no signs of intra-abdominal tumor recurrence 3 mo after surgery (Figure 2). The resected segments of the small intestine and mesentery were

sent for pathological examination. Gross pathological evaluation revealed a 15-cm long lesion (perimeter: 4-5 cm) with a rough mucosal bulge (1.5 x 1.5 cm) 7 cm away from one cut end. The corresponding small intestinal serosal layer formed a 6 x 4 x 4 cm mass, which had a grey-red soft cut surface with outflow of dark red liquid. Hematoxylin and eosin staining showed cystic-like dilated blood and lymph vessels of varying sizes. The blood vessels were dilated into blood sinuses filled with red blood cells, while the lymph vessels containing lymphocytes were filled with eosinophilic proteins. These blood and lymph vessels showed a dopant distribution (Figure 3A,B).Immunohistochemistry showed CD34 (focal +), CD31 (+), D2-40 (+), and Ki67 (dispersed +) . Pathology suggested partial small intestinal hemolymphangioma invading the full-thickness bowel wall and mesentery. Both cut ends of the small bowel developed submucosal vascular proliferation accompanied by vascular dilation and congestion, and one peri-intestinal lymph node showed reactive hyperplasia. The patient had an excellent postoperative outcome without complications.

DISCUSSION

Hematolymphangioma is a benign tumor originating from the mesenchymal-embryonic tissues, and is a type of low-flow vascular malformation instead of a true neoplasm^[1]. Primary hematolymphangioma is the result of developmental abnormalities of the vasculature, embryonic angioplasty, and occlusion of veins and lymphatic capillaries. It is more common in children and adolescents (especially in females) and can occur at systemic sites mainly loose connective tissue. There have been a few reports of hematolymphangioma in the small intestine, spleen, esophagus and other organs^[2].

Hematolymphangioma has varying clinical presentations, sizes and locations. The symptoms vary due to complications such as mass enlargement or bleeding, infection, perforation, torsion and rupture. In general, hematolymphangioma is rare in clinical practice, which may be due to the low incidence and lack of clinical presentations. In the current case, abdominal pain was the main symptom, and may have been a result of the space-occupying tumor. Gastrointestinal hematolymphangioma is diagnosed based

on CT and endoscopic findings. CT is a very useful radiologic tool for diagnosis^[3]. On CT images, hematomphangioma presents with dilation of veins and lymphatic capillaries although with ¹normal stromal tissue and vasculature. Malformed and dilated venous vessels usually present with thrombosis, potentially leading to dystrophic necrosis and calcium deposition. It is worth noting that the vessels of varying sizes within the hematomphangioma may lead to enhancement with different characteristics on imaging. In the tumor rich in blood vessels, significant and persistent enhancement can be observed. Double balloon enteroscopy allows concurrent biopsy and endoscopy^[4], and more importantly, it shows clearer pathological changes. In this patient, endoscopic biopsy was not selected due to the high risk of bleeding during biopsy.

Robotic surgery has the following advantages over traditional laparoscopic surgery^[5] :

1. Higher accuracy: The robotic arm of the surgical system can more accurately replicate the doctor's surgical movements, and can filter out human tremors or errors, thus providing higher accuracy than laparoscopic surgery.
2. Less invasive: Robotic surgery allows for smaller incisions and less tissue trauma, resulting in less post-operative pain and faster recovery times for patients.
3. Better visualization: The robotic surgical system provides a high-definition, three-dimensional view of the surgical site, giving the surgeon a more detailed and accurate view of the surgery than laparoscopic surgery.
4. More dexterous: The robotic surgical system allows for more precise and intricate movements than laparoscopic surgery, enabling the surgeon to perform complex surgical procedures with greater ease.
5. Faster recovery times: Due to the smaller incisions and less tissue trauma with robotic surgery, patients experience faster post-operative recovery times, allowing for earlier hospital discharge and a shorter overall recovery period^[6].

Overall, robotic surgery is superior to conventional laparoscopic surgery in many ways, especially when performing complex procedures.

Generally, en bloc resection ¹can provide the best results with a lower rate of recurrence; however, careful follow-up is required. Moreover, the rate of recurrence varies with the complexity, anatomical location and adequacy of resection. According to the literature,

10%-27% of lesions undergoing en bloc resection recur, whereas the rate could be up to 50%-100% in lesions undergoing partial resection. In comparison to surgery, non-surgical treatments, including cryotherapy, laser therapy, radiotherapy and localized injection of sclerosing agents, are inferior^[7].

CONCLUSION

Robotic surgery is an effective way to treat hemolymphangioma through minimally invasive techniques under the concept of rapid rehabilitation

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PRIMARY SOURCES

1	www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov Internet	44 words — 3%
2	Shu-Guang Zhu, Hai-Bo Li, Tian-Xing Dai, Hua Li, Guo-Ying Wang. "Successful treatment of stage IIIB intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma using neoadjuvant therapy with the PD-1 inhibitor camrelizumab: A case report", World Journal of Clinical Cases, 2022 Crossref	17 words — 1%