

Patterns of gastrointestinal hemorrhage in hemophilia.

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Objectives:

Peptic ulcer has been reported to be the cause of bleeding in 53%-85% of hemophiliacs with gastrointestinal hemorrhage (GIH). The management of GIH in hemophiliacs during the past decade has been affected by the availability of plasma or recombinant concentrates, an increasing occurrence of chronic liver disease, and widespread use of endoscopic procedures. Recurrent bleeding is common and can be caused by the *Helicobacter pylori* infection.

To determine the present patterns of GIH, we reviewed our experience at the Hedi Chaker hospital, Sfax, Tunisia during the last 10 years.

Results:

Ten (10%) of 100 hemophiliacs experienced 10 episodes of GIH.

Seven hemophiliacs A and 3 hemophiliacs B, 7 severe and 3 mild.

Duodenal ulcer (2 cases), unknown site (6 cases), and gastritis (1 case), angiodysplasia (1 case) were the most common diagnoses.

The use of fiberoptic endoscopy resulted in the recognition of diagnoses such as gastritis, esophagitis, Mallory-Weiss syndrome, and esophageal varices.

Red cell transfusion is required in 2 cases.

The amount of factor VIII replacement used by hemophiliacs with GIH correlated with the severity of gastrointestinal bleeding but not with the cause of gastrointestinal bleeding.

Conclusions:

Hemophiliacs develop GIH secondary to a variety of causes as do non hemophiliacs.

Fiberoptic endoscopy, after correction of factor VIII level to 0.40 U/ml, is a safe and valuable diagnostic procedure in hemophiliacs. The specific etiology of GIH in hemophiliacs should be aggressively sought and appropriate specific therapy provided. *H. pylori* infection should be considered as an important cause of UGI bleeding in Patient with Hemophilia. We would recommend stool antigen test as a new and non invasive screening test for diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection in all patients with hereditary hemorrhagic disorders.

References:

Choe BH, Kim JY, Lee JH, Kim JM, Chu MA, Cho SM, Lee KS. Upper gastrointestinal bleeding in children with haemophilia: a clinical significance of *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *Haemophilia*. 2010 Mar;16(2).

