

Perforated Peptic Ulcer & Its Association with Vascular Anatomy of Stomach & Duodenum

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Abstract

Objective: To correlate clinical presentation of perforated peptic ulcer and the surgical approach used with the site of perforation.

Methods: This is a retrospective study conducted on diagnosed 52 patients of perforated peptic ulcer at the Department of surgery, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore for a period of 1 year from January 2015 to December 2015

The details of all patients who were diagnosed and operated for PPU were retrieved retrospectively from medical record department and operation theater records. Case history and detailed clinical examination of patients were evaluated.

Conclusion: Site of the ulcer as reported by endoscopic assessment determines the clinical presentation and overall outcome of the patient.

I. Introduction

Peptic ulcer disease (PUD), is a break in the lining of the stomach, first part of the small intestine, or occasionally the lower esophagus. The most common symptoms of a duodenal ulcer are waking at night with upper abdominal pain or upper abdominal pain that improves with eating. With a gastric ulcer the pain may worsen with eating.¹ The pain is often described as a burning or dull ache. Other symptoms include belching, vomiting, weight loss, or poor appetite. About a third of older people have no symptoms. Complications may include bleeding, perforation, and blockage of the stomach. Bleeding occurs in as many as 15% of people.¹² Perforation is the commonest complication; emergency surgical intervention is always required to save life. Crisp's description of PPU in 1843, still stands true even today. Ulcer perforation was a lethal disease until surgical treatment was introduced at the turn of century. Mikulicz sutured a perforated gastric ulcer for the first time in 1880 and suture is still the most common treatment for ulcer perforation. The revolution in the ulcer treatment that occurred with the discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* has not yet led to any detectable changes in incidence of ulcer perforation

Based on the site of ulcer, the sequelae of perforation can be assessed and a better emergency management could be planned.

Modified Johnson Classification

- Type I: Ulcer along the body of the stomach, most often along the lesser curve at incisura angularis along the locus minoris resistentiae. Not associated with acid hypersecretion.
- Type II: Ulcer in the body in combination with duodenal ulcers. Associated with acid oversecretion.
- Type III: In the pyloric channel within 3 cm of pylorus. Associated with acid oversecretion.
- Type IV: Proximal gastroesophageal ulcer
- Type V: Can occur throughout the stomach. Associated with the chronic use of NSAIDs

II. Materials & Methodology

This is a retrospective study was conducted on diagnosed 52 patients of perforated peptic ulcer at the Department of surgery, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore for a period of 1 year. All patients were studied, who were diagnosed and operated for PPU. The details of patients who presented from January 2015 to December 2015 were retrieved retrospectively from medical record department and operation theater records. Case history and detailed clinical examination of patients were evaluated. Investigations viz. blood CBC, RBS, serum urea, creatinine, BT, CT, Electrolytes, HbsAg, HIV, urinalysis, ECG, X-ray chest P.A. view and X-ray flat plate abdomen in erect posture were carried out. USG was not a mandatory practice. Data were analysed using a questionnaire proforma, including patient's demographic details (age, sex), rural or urban, associated premorbid illness, previous history of PUD and faulty treatment, use of NSAID, cortisone and, alcohol use, smoking (bidi or cigarette) time between onset of symptoms and surgery, site of perforation, type of surgical procedure, postoperative complications and mortality.

The data were evaluated using SPSS 20. Mean \pm standard deviation were presented for numerical parameters and categorical variables were expressed as n (%) on 95% confidence interval. No other statistical test was applied.

III. Results

Male predominance was seen in incidence of perforated peptic ulcer. 40 (76.9%) patients were male and 12 (23.0%) patients were female.

Table I: Sex distribution

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	40	76.9%
Female	12	23.0%

Most common clinical presentation was abdominal distension seen in 50 patients (96.1%) and epigastric pain in 46 patients (88.4%). 9 (17.3%) patients presented with severe shock, haemodynamically unstable, with pre-existing co morbidity, CRF and cardio pulmonary risks. Overall mortality occurred in 4 patients (7.6%). The common reasons were old age, co morbidity, late arrival and septic shock.

Table II: - Clinical presentation

Symptoms	Number	Percentage
Epigastric pain	46	88.4%
Vomiting	40	76.9%
Distension of abdomen	50	96.1%
Constipation	27	51.9%
Fever	30	57.6%
Shock	9	17.3%
Guarding, rigidity, rebound tenderness	52	100%

Duodenal perforation was commonest 42 (80.7%), prepyloric 3 (5.7%) and gastric 7 (13.4%). Ulcer size ranged from .05 cm to 2.5 cm

Table III: Site of perforation

Site of Perforation	Number	Percentage
Duodenum	42	80.7%
Prepyloric	3	5.7%
Gastric	7	13.4%

Simple closure of ulcer with omental patch, either free or pedicle graft (Graham's patch) was done in 30 patients (57.6%). Laproscopic closure was done in 17 patients (32.7%). Omental plugging was done in 3 (5.8%) patients, in ulcers of more than 1 cm. size. Simple abdominal drains were put in 2 patients (3.9%)

Table IV: Surgical approach

Surgical approach used	Number	Percentage
Simple closure with Graham patch	30	57.6%
Laparoscopic surgery	17	32.7%
Omental plugging	3	5.8%
Simple abdominal drainage	2	3.9%

IV. Discussion

The clinical presentation, surgical approach to be used and prognosis widely depends on the site of perforation. Ulcers on the sites in the vicinity of major vessels of stomach predispose the patient of shock in case of perforation. Anterior duodenal ulcer perforates most commonly eroding the gastroduodenal artery, gastric ulcers on lesser curvature near the antrum perforate commonly, eroding the left gastric artery. Massive bleed occurs when the ulcer erodes one of the blood vessels, such as the gastroduodenal artery or the splenic artery (in case of ulcers on posterior wall of stomach). Perforation at the anterior surface of the stomach leads to acute peritonitis, initially chemical and later bacterial peritonitis. Posterior wall perforation leads to bleeding due to the involvement of gastroduodenal artery that lies posterior to the first part of the duodenum and occasionally the splenic artery, which may necessitate ligation of splenic vessels with splenectomy. Duodenal perforation with small sized ulcer leads to dribbling of peritoneal irritants from the site of perforation down the right iliac fossa through the right paracolic gutter, which leads to RIF pain (Valentino syndrome). Rarerly the perforated duodenal ulcer can be sealed by omentum leading to "dry perforation"

V. Conclusion

Perforation of peptic ulcer is frequent surgical emergency and requires awareness and prompt management and operation. It mostly affects young and middle aged males. Endoscopic assessment of site of ulcer should be co related to expected clinical outcomes and Patient should be prescribed treatment for *Helicobacter pylori* and PPI. They should be advised to avoid the common risk factors like too much spicy food, smoking, excess alcohol use, and indiscriminate use of NSAIDs and should seek proper medical advice in time , and counselling them about alarming symptoms. Simple closure with omental patches i.e. omentopexy give excellent results

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