Early Hepatocellular Carcinoma Presenting with Biliary Ductal Invasion—A Case Report

J W H Leong, *MBBS, J M S Ho, **FAMS, MBBS, FRCPath (UK), H S Ng, ***FAMS, M Med, FRCP (Eng), J Prema Raj, ****FAMS, MBBS, FRCS

Abstract

Early and small hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) rarely presents with biliary ductal invasion. We present a case of early HCC presenting with biliary invasion, in the absence of a mass on computed tomographic scanning. The patient, a hepatitis B carrier, was initially diagnosed to have “liver fluke infection” after a “leaf-like structure” was found within the right hepatic duct on endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). The specimen was retrieved with a Dormia basket. Histology revealed HCC. This report highlights an unusual case of early and small HCC presenting with biliary ductal invasion. A high index of suspicion has to be entertained in the background of hepatitis B regardless of the atypicity of presentation.

Ann Acad Med Singapore 2000; 29:101-4

Key words: Bile duct, Hepatectomy, Hepatitis B, Hepatoma

* Medical Officer
** Senior Consultant
Department of Pathology
*** Head and Senior Consultant
Department of Gastroenterology
**** Senior Consultant
Department of General Surgery
Singapore General Hospital
Address for Reprints: Dr J Prema Raj, Department of General Surgery, Singapore General Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive, Singapore 169608.