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Vascular type Ehlers-Danlos syndrome with intra-abdominal hemorrhage due to ruptured hepatic aneurysm: A case report

Vascular Ehlers–Danlos syndrome (vEDS) is a rare hereditary connective tissue disorder caused by mutations in the COL3A1 gene, resulting in fragility of arteries and hollow organs. Patients are at high risk of spontaneous arterial rupture and life-threatening hemorrhage. This case report describes a patient with vEDS who developed massive intra-abdominal hemorrhage due to rupture of a hepatic artery aneurysm.

The patient presented with sudden severe abdominal pain and hemodynamic instability. Laboratory findings indicated acute blood loss, and contrast-enhanced computed tomography revealed hemoperitoneum and an actively bleeding hepatic artery aneurysm. Given the patient's unstable condition and the known surgical risks associated with vEDS, transcatheter arterial embolization was selected as an emergency treatment. The procedure successfully achieved hemostasis and stabilized the patient without major complications.

Subsequent evaluation, including genetic testing, confirmed a pathogenic COL3A1 mutation, leading to a definitive diagnosis of vascular Ehlers–Danlos syndrome. This case highlights that visceral artery aneurysm rupture, although rare, should be considered in patients with unexplained intra-abdominal hemorrhage. It also emphasizes the importance of early recognition of vEDS and suggests that endovascular treatment can be a safe and effective alternative to open surgery in selected patients with this fragile vascular condition.

Keywords: Vascular Ehlers–Danlos syndrome, intra-abdominal hemorrhage, endovascular treatment



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Biography

Dr. Masaoh Tanaka is a medical professional affiliated with the Department of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine at Wakayama Medical University in Wakayama, Japan. His professional work is focused on emergency medicine and critical care, with an interest in the assessment and management of critically ill and emergency patients. Through his clinical and academic activities, Dr. Tanaka contributes to the advancement of emergency and critical care medicine and is engaged in professional and medical education activities. He is committed to providing high-quality patient care and advancing clinical practice through evidence-based medicine, research, and collaboration with fellow healthcare professionals. Based at Wakayama Medical University, Dr. Tanaka is part of a specialized medical environment dedicated to improving outcomes for patients requiring urgent and critical care.