ENTEROCUTANEOUS FISTULAS

R Sim ICU Talk 24 Feb 2000



Principles of Management

Prevention

- Will it close spontaneously?
- Control sepsis
- Control output
- Fluid and electrolytes
- Nutrition
- Skin care

Prevention

 Patient factors - steroids, sepsis, chemotherapy, hypoproteinaemia, renal failure, diabetes

Disease factors

- F oreign body
- R adiation
- I BD
- Ends ischemic
- N eoplasia
- D istal obstruction
- <mark>S</mark> epsis

Prevention

Surgeon factors

- Error in judgement
- Full thickness bowel injury
- Intestine caught in fascia closure
- Suture-line defect
- Everted anastomosis
- Poor hemostasis
- Poor drain placement
- Mesenteric vascular injury
- Strangulating sutures

Classification

Significance

FavourableUnfavourableAnatomicEsoph., duo. stump,Gastric, lat. duo.,Types I-IVpancreatobiliary,ileal, completejejunal, defect<1cm²,</td>disruption,tract<2cm</td>epithelialisation,distal obsdistal obs

Physiologic

Low output <200 ml/d Output does not prognosticate closure Moderate though it does decrease as a prelude High output >500ml/d to closure

Classification

SignificanceFavourableUnfavourableEtiologicDisease processAppendicitis,Cancer, IBD,Diverticulitis,Radiation,PostoperativeForeign body

Spontaneous Closure

Favourable Continuity maintained End fistula No abscess Healthy bowel ends Free distal flow Esophageal Duodenal stump Jejunal Tract < 2cm Defect <1cm²

Unfavourable Complete disruption Lateral fistula Associated abscess Diseased bowel ends **Distal obstruction** Gastric Lateral duodenal Ileal Tract < 2cm Defect >1cm²

Gastrointestinal Fistulas

- Overall mortality 37% (intra-abdominal sepsis)
- Type I abdominal, esophagus,gastroduodenal mortality 17%
- Type II small bowel, mortality 33%
- Type III large bowel, mortality 20%
- Type IV all sites associated with a large abdominal wall defect, mortality 60%
 IVA fistula is "deep" and uncontrolled
 IVB fistula is on the surface of the defect "exposed" or "bud"
- 76% require further operations

Radiologic adjuncts

- CT scan
- Fistulogram
- Contrast study
- Guided percutaneous drainageStenting

Control sepsis

- Antibiotics
- Drain abscesses and collections

Control output

- Bowel rest
- Relieve obstruction
- Decompression, diversion
- H2 antagonist
- Somatostatin
- Tissue glue

Fluid and Electrolytes

- Outstanding deficit
- Ongoing losses
- Maintenance

Fluid and Electrolytes

Туре	Vol	Na	Κ	Cl	HCO3	
(ml/	'day)	(mEq/L)	(mEq/L)) (mEq/L)	(mEq/L)
Saliva	1500	10	26	15	50	
Gastric	1500	60-100	10	100	0	
Duo.	2000	130	5	90	0-10	
Ileum	3000	140	5	100	15-30	
Pan.	800	140	5	75	70-115	
Bile 80	0	145	5	100	15-35	

Nutrition

- Enteral
- Parenteral

Nutrition

Lon	<u>voutput</u> <u>Hig</u>	<u>h output</u>
Nutrition	Enteral	Some or all parenteral
Protein	1-1.5 g/kg/d	1.5-2.5 g/kg/d
Calories	Resting expenditur	e 1.5x resting expenditure
Lipid	Enteral, 20-30%	Parenteral, 20-30%
Vitamins	RDA, 2x for Vit C	2× RDA
Minerals	No problem	Mg, Zn, K, Na, HCO ₃

Skin care

- Origin of fistula
- Nature of effluent
- Condition of skin
- Location of fistula
- Pouches
- Skin barrier



Timing of operation - 6 to 8 weeks