Endoscopic ultrasound features of biliary ascariasis

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A 36-year-old woman presented with features of acute cholangitis. Ultrasonography showed distended gall bladder and mildly dilated common bile duct (CBD). Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) [Figure - 1] prior to therapeutic ERCP showed the tail of a roundworm jutting out of the ampulla of Vater. In addition there was choledocholithiasis. The worm escaped into the CBD during EUS. ERCP revealed a mild distal biliary stricture necessitating sphincterotomy for successful extraction of the worm and calculi. The patient was also treated with oral albendazole.

Ascariasis causing biliary obstruction is usually diagnosed by ultrasonography.[1] Sonological features of biliary ascariasis were well described and thus EUS features are predictable but not described.

Endoscopic extraction of the worm is the treatment of choice. Antihelminthic administration is essential to eradicate the intestinal worms and periodic de-worming is recommended to prevent recurrence.

References