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Biliary papillomatosis.

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A 74-year-old asymptomatic man was referred to the outpatient clinic by his general practitioner because of abnormal liver enzymes. He had no important medical history. Blood analysis showed mild cholestasis. Abdominal computed tomography showed bile duct dilatation with contrast capturing mural nodules in the common bile duct with protrusion into the dilated lumen (Figure 1a). Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography revealed bile duct dilatation with multiple irregular filling defects (Figure 1b). We performed an endoscopic retrograde cholangiography that disclosed diffusely dilated bile ducts with a ragged appearance of the bile duct wall with multiple convex gaps as a sign of intrinsic compression (Figure 2a). Single operator cholangioscopy was performed at the same time with direct visualization of numerous papillary mucosal projections wide spread in the common bile duct with nearly obliteration of the lumen of the bile duct (Figure 2b). Targeted biopsies were taken of these intraductal lesions. The diagnosis of biliary papillomatosis was made and histologically proven (Figure 2c). Biliary papillomatosis is a rare premalignant condition arising from the peribiliary progenitor cells. We report clear radiologic, endoscopic and histopathologic images of biliary papillomatosis.

Figure 1 (a) Abdominal computed tomography shows bile duct dilatation with contrast capturing mural nodules in the common bile duct with protrusion into the dilated lumen. (b) Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography shows bile duct dilatation with multiple irregular filling defects.

Figure 2 (a) Endoscopic retrograde cholangiography image with diffusely dilated bile ducts with a ragged appearance of the bile duct wall with multiple convex gaps as a sign of intrinsic compression. (b) Direct visualization in the bile ducts with single operator cholangioscopy of papillary mucosal projections: biliary papillomatosis. (c) Histological proof of biliary papillomatosis with the typical papillary architecture (hematoxylin-eosin staining, x50).