



Canadian Association of Radiologists  
L'Association canadienne des radiologistes

# **Hepatic artery pseudoaneurysm embolization**

## **AP005**

Patrick Kennedy, MD (resident) and George Markose, MBBS, MRCP, FRCR

Canadian Association of Radiologists 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting  
Departmental Clinical Audit Contest  
Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 9:40 am

# Conflicts of Interest

---

- None to disclose.

# Outline

- Principle Location of Audit
- Background and Aim
- Audit Target
- Methods
- Results
- Interventions / Action Plan
- Discussion / Conclusions

# Principle Location of Audit

- Diagnostic imaging department at a university-affiliated urban hospital

# Principle Location of Audit

- Diagnostic imaging department at a university-affiliated urban hospital
- Three hospital campuses with various specialty services

# Principle Location of Audit

- Diagnostic imaging department at a university-affiliated urban hospital
- Three hospital campuses with various specialty services
- 24-hour interventional radiology coverage at all three sites

# Background

- Hepatic artery aneurysms (especially pseudoaneurysms) are now the most commonly reported visceral artery aneurysm [1]

# Background

- Hepatic artery aneurysms (especially pseudoaneurysms) are now the most commonly reported visceral artery aneurysm [1]
  - Greater incidence than splenic artery aneurysms



# Background

- Hepatic artery aneurysms (especially pseudoaneurysms) are now the most commonly reported visceral artery aneurysm [1]
  - Greater incidence than splenic artery aneurysms
- Account for 39% of all visceral artery pseudoaneurysms [2]

# Background

- Hepatic artery aneurysms (especially pseudoaneurysms) are now the most commonly reported visceral artery aneurysm [1]
  - Greater incidence than splenic artery aneurysms
- Account for 39% of all visceral artery pseudoaneurysms [2]
- Most commonly related to percutaneous biliary intervention [3]

# Background

- Hepatic artery aneurysms (especially pseudoaneurysms) are now the most commonly reported visceral artery aneurysm [1]
  - Greater incidence than splenic artery aneurysms
- Account for 39% of all visceral artery pseudoaneurysms [2]
- Most commonly related to percutaneous biliary intervention [3]
  - Other causes: anastomotic rupture post liver transplant, trauma, pancreatitis, other inflammatory processes

# Background: Diagnosis

- Classic presentation: clinical triad of hemobilia (abdominal pain, jaundice, and GI bleeding) [4]

# Background: Diagnosis

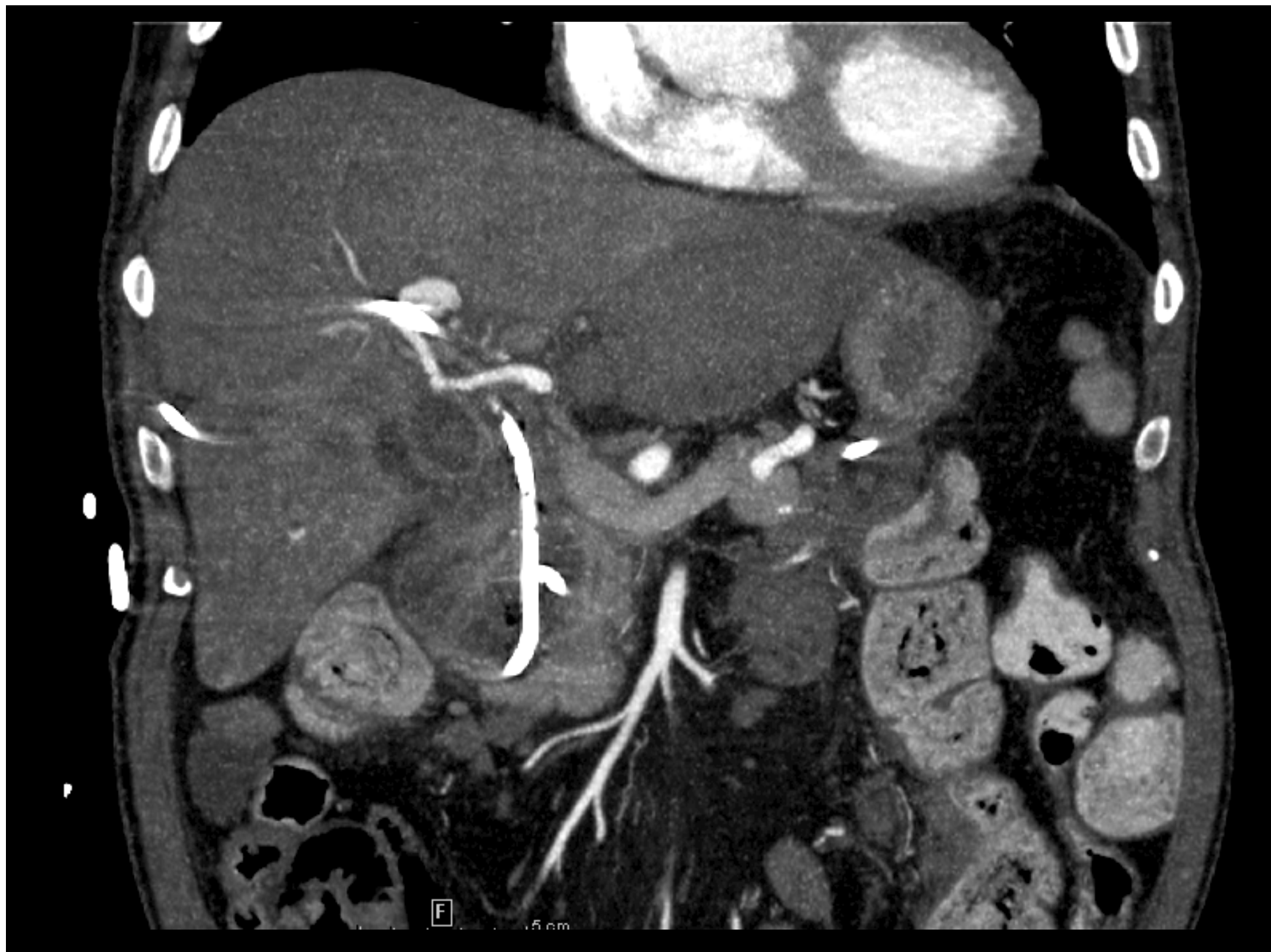
- Classic presentation: clinical triad of hemobilia (abdominal pain, jaundice, and GI bleeding) [4]
- Presentation often nonspecific

# Background: Diagnosis

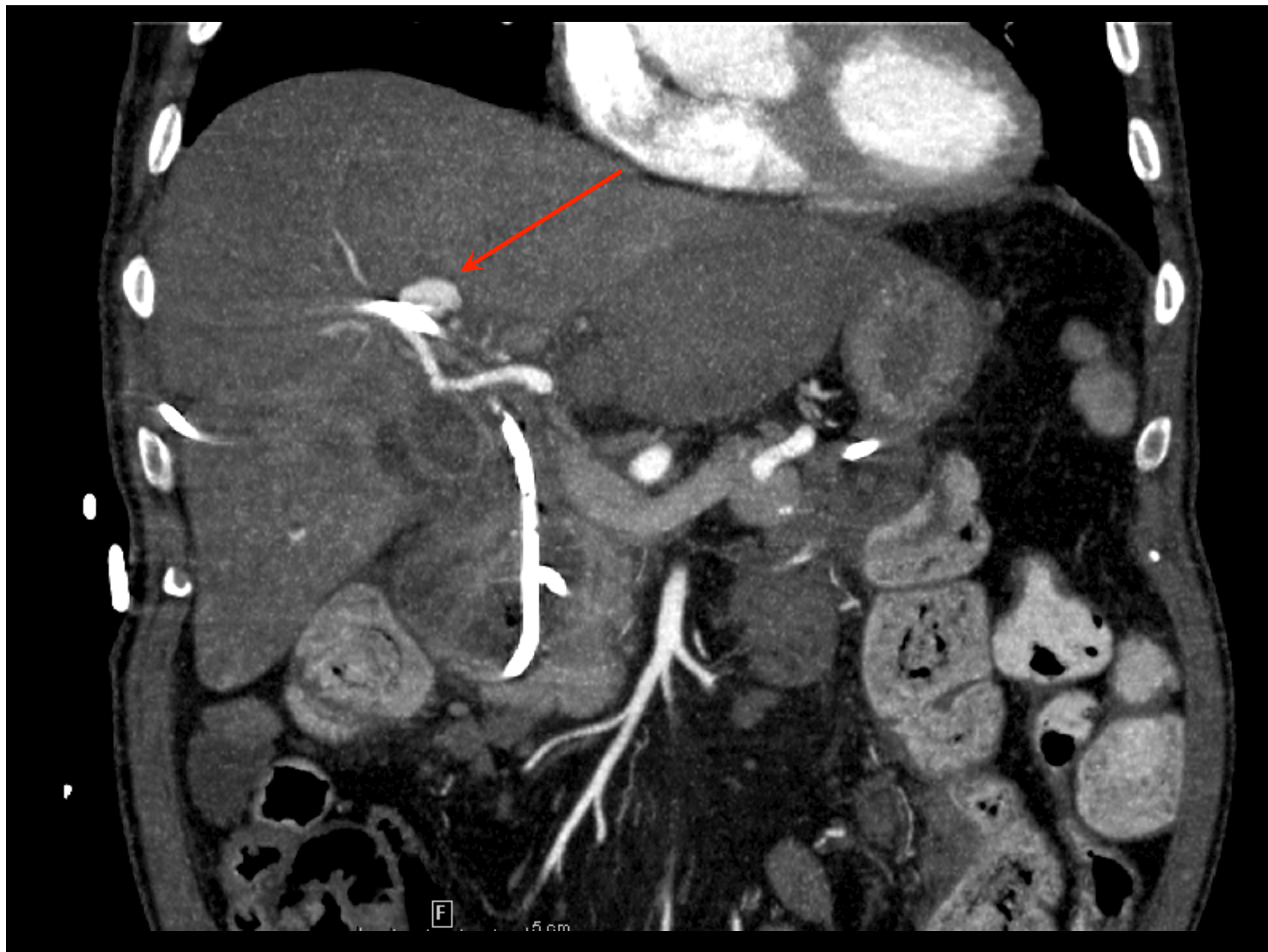
- Classic presentation: clinical triad of hemobilia (abdominal pain, jaundice, and GI bleeding) [4]
- Presentation often nonspecific
- Typically diagnosed by CTA

# Background: Diagnosis

- Classic presentation: clinical triad of hemobilia (abdominal pain, jaundice, and GI bleeding) [4]
- Presentation often nonspecific
- Typically diagnosed by CTA
- Conventional angiography, previously the gold standard, now primarily used when treatment is indicated

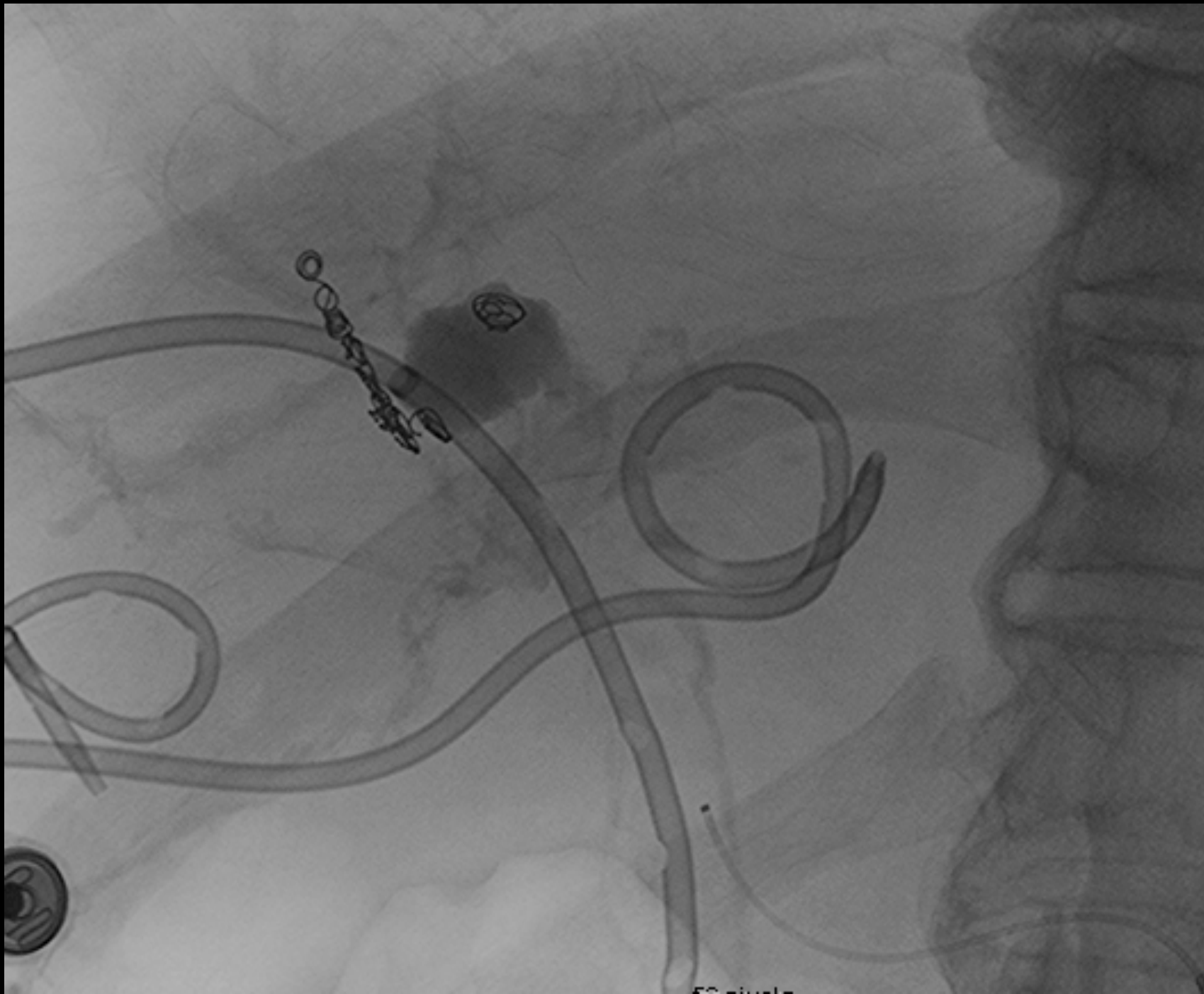












# Background: Management

- Urgent repair is generally recommended for all HAPAs regardless of size

# Background: Management

- Urgent repair is generally recommended for all HAPAs regardless of size
  - Asymptomatic visceral artery aneurysms less than 2 cm → surveillance [5]



# Background: Management

- Urgent repair is generally recommended for all HAPAs regardless of size
  - Asymptomatic visceral artery aneurysms less than 2 cm → surveillance [5]
- Open surgical ligation: 21% mortality rate [1]

# Background: Management

- Urgent repair is generally recommended for all HAPAs regardless of size
  - Asymptomatic visceral artery aneurysms less than 2 cm → surveillance [5]
- Open surgical ligation: 21% mortality rate [1]
- Transcatheter embolization being used increasingly for management to improve outcomes [6]



# Background: Endovascular techniques

- Most common: coil embolization of the afferent and efferent arteries [3]

# Background: Endovascular techniques

- Most common: coil embolization of the afferent and efferent arteries [3]
- Complex aneurysms can be treated with liquid embolic ethylene-vinyl alcohol (Onyx) or with stent graft [7,8]

# Background: Endovascular techniques

- Most common: coil embolization of the afferent and efferent arteries [3]
- Complex aneurysms can be treated with liquid embolic ethylene-vinyl alcohol (Onyx) or with stent graft [7,8]
- Use of multilayer flow-diverting bare stent also reported [9]

# Background: Rationale

- Embolization of HAPAs is performed at our institution, usually in the acute setting

# Background: Rationale

- Embolization of HAPAs is performed at our institution, usually in the acute setting
- Patient outcomes have not yet been formally measured

# Background: Rationale

- Embolization of HAPAs is performed at our institution, usually in the acute setting
- Patient outcomes have not yet been formally measured
- This data is important to ensure a high standard of care at our centre

# Aim of Audit

- Determine the technical success and mortality rates of HAPA embolization at our institution

# Aim of Audit

- Determine the technical success and mortality rates of HAPA embolization at our institution
- Explore possible factors contributing to poor clinical outcomes



# Aim of Audit

- Determine the technical success and mortality rates of HAPA embolization at our institution
- Explore possible factors contributing to poor clinical outcomes
- Comparison will be made to results in the literature

# Methods

---

- Research ethics board approval obtained

# Methods

---

- Research ethics board approval obtained
- All cases of HAPA treated with embolization isolated from 2012 to 2016

# Methods

- Research ethics board approval obtained
- All cases of HAPA treated with embolization isolated from 2012 to 2016
  - Obtained via PACS, searching by procedure
  - “XA HEPATIC ARTERY EMBOLIZATION”

# Methods

- Research ethics board approval obtained
- All cases of HAPA treated with embolization isolated from 2012 to 2016
  - Obtained via PACS, searching by procedure
  - “XA HEPATIC ARTERY EMBOLIZATION”
  - Prior to 2012, “XA ANGIO ABDOMEN”

# Methods

- Research ethics board approval obtained
- All cases of HAPA treated with embolization isolated from 2012 to 2016
  - Obtained via PACS, searching by procedure
  - “XA HEPATIC ARTERY EMBOLIZATION”
  - Prior to 2012, “XA ANGIO ABDOMEN”
- Clinical notes, imaging, and procedure reports reviewed

# Methods

- Research ethics board approval obtained
- All cases of HAPA treated with embolization isolated from 2012 to 2016
  - Obtained via PACS, searching by procedure
  - “XA HEPATIC ARTERY EMBOLIZATION”
  - Prior to 2012, “XA ANGIO ABDOMEN”
- Clinical notes, imaging, and procedure reports reviewed
  - Demographics, pseudoaneurysm characteristics, underlying cause, technical success, 30-day mortality

# Methods

---

- Technical success and mortality rates of HAPA embolization were determined



# Methods

- Technical success and mortality rates of HAPA embolization were determined
- Results compared to data in available literature

# Methods

- Technical success and mortality rates of HAPA embolization were determined
- Results compared to data in available literature
  - No applicable consensus guidelines to date

# Methods

- Technical success and mortality rates of HAPA embolization were determined
- Results compared to data in available literature
  - No applicable consensus guidelines to date
  - 30-day mortality rate: 11% in largest study found [2]

# Methods

- Technical success and mortality rates of HAPA embolization were determined
- Results compared to data in available literature
  - No applicable consensus guidelines to date
  - 30-day mortality rate: 11% in largest study found [2]
  - Technical success: as high as 100% [10]

# Results

- Eleven patients underwent HAPA embolization within the five-year period

# Results

- Eleven patients underwent HAPA embolization within the five-year period
- Gender: male-to-female ratio 7:4
  - 63.6% male, 36.4% female

# Results

- Eleven patients underwent HAPA embolization within the five-year period
- Gender: male-to-female ratio 7:4
  - 63.6% male, 36.4% female
- Average age at presentation: 61.5 years

# Results

- Eleven patients underwent HAPA embolization within the five-year period
- Gender: male-to-female ratio 7:4
  - 63.6% male, 36.4% female
- Average age at presentation: 61.5 years
- 54.5% of procedures performed afterhours



# Results

- Eleven patients underwent HAPA embolization within the five-year period
- Gender: male-to-female ratio 7:4
  - 63.6% male, 36.4% female
- Average age at presentation: 61.5 years
- 54.5% of procedures performed afterhours
- Technical success in 100% of cases

# Results

- Eleven patients underwent HAPA embolization within the five-year period
- Gender: male-to-female ratio 7:4
  - 63.6% male, 36.4% female
- Average age at presentation: 61.5 years
- 54.5% of procedures performed afterhours
- Technical success in 100% of cases
- 30-day mortality rate: 9.1%

# Results

- Eleven patients underwent HAPA embolization within the five-year period
- Gender: male-to-female ratio 7:4
  - 63.6% male, 36.4% female
- Average age at presentation: 61.5 years
- 54.5% of procedures performed afterhours
- Technical success in 100% of cases
- 30-day mortality rate: 9.1%
- Both audit targets were achieved

## Results (cont'd)

- One patient died within 30 days of procedure
  - 58-year-old male with pancreatic carcinoma

## Results (cont'd)

- One patient died within 30 days of procedure
  - 58-year-old male with pancreatic carcinoma
  - Whipple's procedure complicated by anastomotic dehiscence, abscess, and intra-abdominal hemorrhage

## Results (cont'd)

- One patient died within 30 days of procedure
  - 58-year-old male with pancreatic carcinoma
  - Whipple's procedure complicated by anastomotic dehiscence, abscess, and intra-abdominal hemorrhage
  - No active extravasation or pseudoaneurysm on initial CTA, therefore brought back to OR for laparotomy

## Results (cont'd)

- One patient died within 30 days of procedure
  - 58-year-old male with pancreatic carcinoma
  - Whipple's procedure complicated by anastomotic dehiscence, abscess, and intra-abdominal hemorrhage
  - No active extravasation or pseudoaneurysm on initial CTA, therefore brought back to OR for laparotomy
  - Bleeding continued and CTA eventually found multiple pseudoaneurysm of the common hepatic artery, a variant dorsal pancreatic artery, and marginal artery
    - Largest measured 9 mm in maximal diameter

## Results (cont'd)

- One patient died within 30 days of procedure
  - 58-year-old male with pancreatic carcinoma
  - Whipple's procedure complicated by anastomotic dehiscence, abscess, and intra-abdominal hemorrhage
  - No active extravasation or pseudoaneurysm on initial CTA, therefore brought back to OR for laparotomy
  - Bleeding continued and CTA eventually found multiple pseudoaneurysm of the common hepatic artery, a variant dorsal pancreatic artery, and marginal artery
    - Largest measured 9 mm in maximal diameter
  - Treated with coil embolization with technical success



## Results (cont'd)

- One patient died within 30 days of procedure
  - 58-year-old male with pancreatic carcinoma
  - Whipple's procedure complicated by anastomotic dehiscence, abscess, and intra-abdominal hemorrhage
  - No active extravasation or pseudoaneurysm on initial CTA, therefore brought back to OR for laparotomy
  - Bleeding continued and CTA eventually found multiple pseudoaneurysm of the common hepatic artery, a variant dorsal pancreatic artery, and marginal artery
    - Largest measured 9 mm in maximal diameter
  - Treated with coil embolization with technical success
  - Died 16 days post-procedure as a result of liver failure, intra-abdominal sepsis, and eventual hemodynamic decompensation

## Results (cont'd)

UNDERLYING CAUSE	NUMBER OF CASES (PERCENT)
Surgery	4 (36.4%)
Biliary Intervention	3 (27.3%)
Trauma	2 (18.2%)
Duodenal ulcer	1 (9.1%)
Suspected vasculopathy	1 (9.1%)

## Results (cont'd)

LOCATION	NUMBER OF CASES (PERCENT)
Branch of right hepatic artery	4 (36.4%)
Right hepatic artery	3 (27.3%)
Left hepatic artery	1 (9.1%)
Cystic artery	1 (9.1%)
Proper hepatic artery	1 (9.1%)
Multiple, including the common hepatic artery	1 (9.1%)

## Results (cont'd)

EMBOLIC AGENT	NUMBER OF CASES (PERCENT)
Coils alone	6 (54.5%)
Coils and thrombin	3 (27.3%)
Coils and PVA particles	1 (9.1%)
Stent graft	1 (9.1%)

# Interventions / Action Plan

---

- Departmental education sessions

# Interventions / Action Plan

- Departmental education sessions
  - Important for continuing education of interventional radiologists

# Interventions / Action Plan

- Departmental education sessions
  - Important for continuing education of interventional radiologists
  - Arranged based on ongoing development of novel embolization techniques

# Interventions / Action Plan

- Departmental education sessions
  - Important for continuing education of interventional radiologists
  - Arranged based on ongoing development of novel embolization techniques
- No current consensus guidelines in the literature



# Interventions / Action Plan

- Departmental education sessions
  - Important for continuing education of interventional radiologists
  - Arranged based on ongoing development of novel embolization techniques
- No current consensus guidelines in the literature
  - May be proposed to the Society of Interventional Radiology

# Discussion / Conclusion

---

- Comparable data in the literature is limited

# Discussion / Conclusion

- Comparable data in the literature is limited
- Our results suggest that HAPA embolization is being performed safely and effectively at our institution

# Discussion / Conclusion

- Comparable data in the literature is limited
- Our results suggest that HAPA embolization is being performed safely and effectively at our institution
- Regular audits are necessary to ensure quality of care for patients undergoing urgent embolization procedures

# Acknowledgments

- Dr. George Markose (audit supervisor)
- Hepatobiliary surgery team
- Cheryl Livingston, Diagnostic Services Manager
- Charles Meli, Senior IR Technologist

# References

1. Shanley CJ, Shah NL, Messina LM. Common splanchnic artery aneurysms: splenic, hepatic, and celiac. *Ann Vasc Surg* 1996;10(3):315-22.
2. Tulsyan N, Kashyap VS, Greenberg RK, Sarac TP, Clair DG, Pierce G, Ouriel K. The endovascular management of visceral artery aneurysms and pseudoaneurysms. *J Vasc Surg* 2007;45:276-83.
3. Belli AM, Markose G, Morgan R. The role of interventional radiology in the management abdominal visceral artery aneurysms. *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol* 2012;35:234-43.
4. Berceli SA. Hepatic and splenic artery aneurysms. *Semin Vasc Surg* 2005;18:196-201.
5. Chadha M, Ahuja C. Visceral artery aneurysms: diagnosis and percutaneous management. *Semin Intervent Radiol* 2009;26:196-206.
6. Reber PU, Baer HU, Patel AG, Wildi S, Triller J, Büchler MW. Superselective coil embolization: treatment of choice in high risk patients with extrahepatic pseudoaneurysms of the hepatic arteries. *J Am Coll Surg* 1998;186:325–30.
7. Larson RA, Solomon J, Carpenter JP. Stent graft repair of visceral artery aneurysms. *J Vasc Surg* 2002;36:1260-3.
8. Bratby MJ, Lehmann ED, Bottomley J, Kessel DO, Nicholson AA, McPherson SJ, Morgan RA, Belli AM. Endovascular embolization of visceral artery aneurysms with ethylene-vinyl alcohol (Onyx): a case series. *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol* 2007;29:1125-8.
9. Balderi A, Antonietti A, Pedrazzini F, Ferro L, Leotta L, Peano E, Grosso M. Treatment of hepatic artery aneurysm by endovascular exclusion using the multilayer Cardatis stent. *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol* 2010;33:1282-6.
10. Spiliopoulos S, Sabharwal T, Karnabatidis D, Brountzos E, Katsanos K, Krokidis M, Gkoutzios P, Siablis D, Adam A. Endovascular treatment of visceral artery aneurysms and pseudoaneurysms: long-term outcomes from a multicenter European study. *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol* 2012;35:1315-25.