



Cardiopulmonary resuscitation-related left gastric artery laceration

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A 78-year-old man with a medical history of pulmonary hypertension was admitted to our ICU after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest with asystole as first recorded rhythm. On day 4 after return of spontaneous circulation, he presented subacute anaemia with 6.8 g/dl hemoglobinemia, without any blood externalization. Computed tomography abdominal angiography demonstrated bilateral rib fractures, liver lacerations, and active bleeding involving a gastric or subdiaphragmatic abdominal artery, with associated hemoperitoneum (Fig. 1a). Emergency arteriography finally identified acute bleeding related to a left gastric artery laceration ultimately resulting from heart massage (Fig. 1b, c). Embolization was successfully performed to control the bleeding (Fig. 1d). Unfortunately, the patient died 2 days later because of refractory cardiac failure.

Acute anaemia without blood externalization after chest compression for cardiac arrest resuscitation should systematically indicate computed tomography abdominal angiography to look for intra-abdominal bleeding. Once the origin of bleeding is identified, emergency arteriography and embolization are therapeutic options that may be proposed to change the course of this potentially fatal complication after cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

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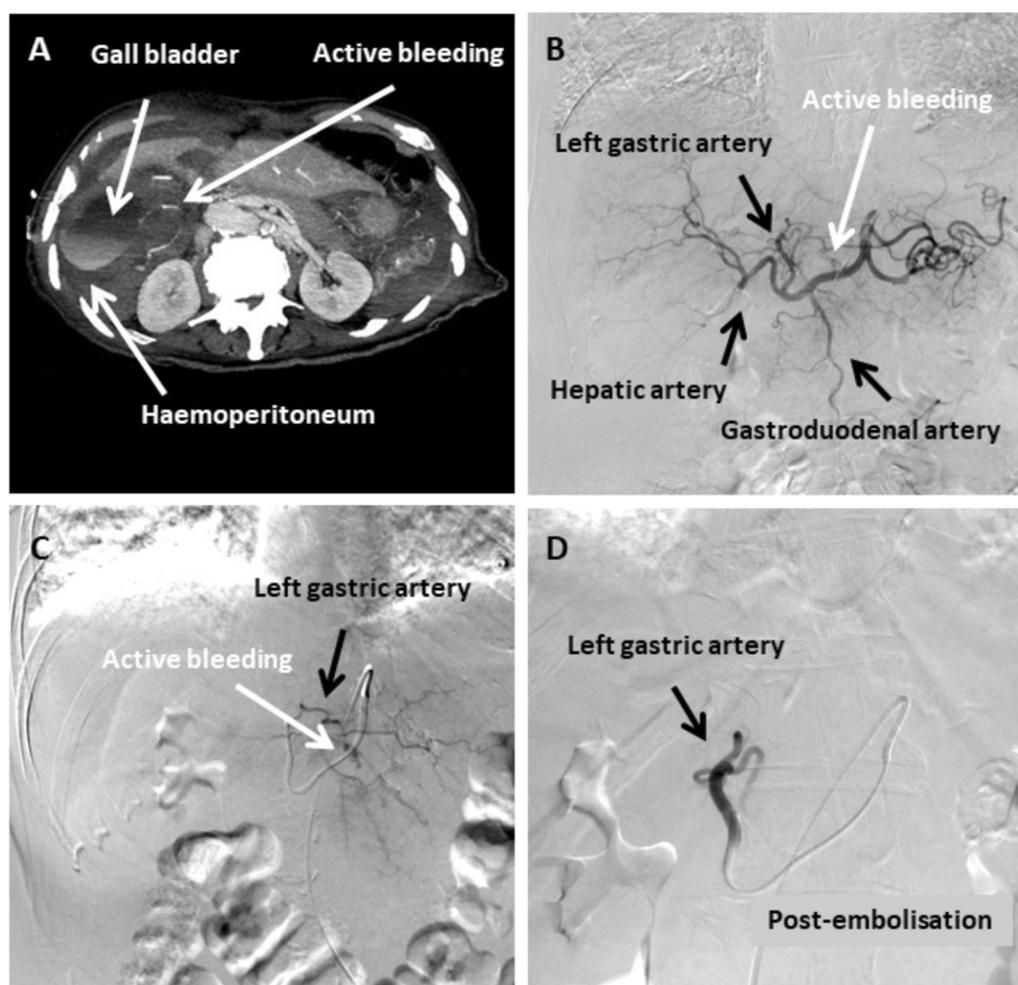


Fig. 1 Illustration of endovascular management of left gastric artery laceration resulting from chest compression for cardiac arrest resuscitation. **a** Coronal computed tomography angiography (maximum intensity projection) showing bilateral rib fractures, liver lacerations, and active bleeding involving a gastric or subdiaphragmatic abdominal artery, with associated hemoperitoneum (white arrows). **b** Arteriography of the celiac trunk before embolization showing active bleeding from the left gastric artery (white arrow). **c** Arteriography of the left gastric artery before embolization, demonstrating active bleeding (white arrow). **d** Post-coiling arteriography demonstrating bleeding control

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Conflicts of interest

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