협착으로 인해 불완전 대장내시경 검사를 시행한 크론병 환자에서 위내시경의 유용성 평가

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Using a Gastroscope for the Incomplete Colonoscopy in Patients with Stricturing Crohn’s Disease

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Background/Aims: Colonoscopy is performed in patients with Crohn’s disease (CD) for follow-up of disease activity. However, colonoscopic examination is often incomplete in CD patients because of colon stricture. Therefore, this study was conducted to evaluate the additional role of using an esophagogastrroduodenoscope (EGD) in CD patients who failed colonoscopy due to colon stricture.

Methods: Among 961 patients with CD who had been registered in Asan Medical Center from January 1991 to December 2009, we enrolled the patients who had failed complete colonoscopy due to colonic stricture. In sixty patients, 83 colonoscopies were performed with EGD to complete the examination. Complete colonoscopy was defined as evaluation up to cecum or anastomotic site with ileum.

Results: Among 60 CD patients, male were 35 (58%) patients. Mean age of 83 cases at EGD was 28.7 (15~51) years. The levels of failed colonoscopies were anus in 28 (33.7%) of 83 cases, rectum in 26 (31.3%), sigmoid colon in 25 (30.1%), descending colon in 3 (3.6%), and transverse colon in 1 (1.2%), respectively. Although complete examinations with EGD were possible only in 61 (73.5%) of 83 cases, we were able to advance the proximal portion of colon with EGD in 14 cases and additional evaluation was given through EGD in 75 (90.4%) of 83 cases. We found active lesions in 48 cases; aphthous ulcers were found in 2 (2.7%), medium size ulcers in 19 (25.3%), and large, longitudinal or serpiginous ulcers in 27 (36.0%), respectively. Furthermore, we found one patient with rectal cancer with biopsy. After endoscopy, medications were changed in 29 (36.7%) of 75 cases.

Conclusion: In CD patients with incomplete colonoscopy due to stricture, EGD could evaluate the whole colon in about two-thirds. Furthermore, it provided an additional information on disease state in over 90% of cases and confirmed active lesions in 64% and a cancer. These findings suggest that using a EGD could be a valuable tool for evaluating disease state in CD patients.