A RARE CASE OF SMALL BOWEL BLEEDING

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Small-bowel capsule endoscopy identified active ileal bleeding and guided emergency repair in a 79-year-old man with secondary aortoenteric fistula following abdominal aortic aneurysm repair.

KEY POINTS

- A 79-year-old man with prior open Dacron graft repair for ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm presented with overt bleeding from his stoma eight months post-surgery.
- Upper and lower endoscopy found no bleeding lesions, but small-bowel capsule endoscopy revealed active bleeding within the proximal ileum.
- CT scan demonstrated aneurysm sac enlargement, close proximity of small bowel loops to the aneurysm sac, and suspected leakage at the distal part of the aneurysm sac.
- Emergency endovascular repair using a bifurcated stent graft successfully stopped the bleeding; the patient was discharged three days later with no endoleak on follow-up duplex ultrasound at one, three, and six months.
- The authors suggest small-bowel capsule endoscopy may be useful in patients with prior abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery presenting with gastrointestinal bleeding when upper and lower endoscopy are unrevealing.

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