Colon perforation during sorafenib therapy for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. A case report

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ABSTRACT

There are no effective conventional systemic cytotoxic therapies for patients with unresectable or advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Sorafenib, an oral multi-targeted tyrosine kinase inhibitor, was recently approved for the treatment of patients with HCC. Sorafenib is generally well tolerated and has an acceptable toxicity profile. Gastrointestinal perforation is a rare adverse event. We present a case of transverse colon perforation during sorafenib therapy for advanced HCC. A 68-year-old woman with advanced HCC was treated with sorafenib. Eight weeks later the patient presented with the sudden onset of sharp abdominal pain. Emergency surgery was performed for panperitonitis and a perforation involving the transverse colon.

Key words: sorafenib, bowel perforation, hepatocellular carcinoma.

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