Double-balloon platform-assisted rectal endoscopic submucosal dissection

A 69-year-old woman with complicated diverticular disease post-partial left colectomy was referred for evaluation of hematochezia. Index colonoscopy showed a large rectal polyp, and polypectomy was incomplete. Biopsy showed a traditional serrated adenoma. The case was referred to the advanced endoscopy service for further management.

The patient underwent a sigmoidoscopy that revealed a 40-mm, partially circumferential and lateral-spreading polypoid lesion, 0.5 cm from the dentate line. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) revealed a hypoechoic rectal mass with well-defined borders confined to the mucosa, which was amenable to endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD).

Colonoscopy was then performed with the intention of undertaking ESD. A border around the lesion was initially marked using the soft coagulation setting. High pressure injection using a hybrid knife was used around the edges of the lesion; after adequate expansion of the submucosal space, the mucosa was incised into the submucosa. After dissection had been started at the distal edge of the lesion, the double-balloon platform was deployed. The dissected edge was secured to the proximal balloon of the platform using hemoclips, and the device was used to retract the mucosa, facilitating further dissection. The submucosal space below the lesion was dissected using repeated submucosal injections followed by short bursts of dissection, and the lesion was ultimately removed en bloc (►Fig. 1; ►Video 1).

One suture was placed to close the ESD defect. The patient was discharged on day 2 and remained asymptomatic on follow-up. Pathology showed a 4.5 × 2.5 × 1-cm serrated adenoma with margins that were free of adenomatous epithelium.

ESD can be safely and effectively used for en bloc excision of large colorectal tumors without submucosal invasion. However, the limitations of ESD include the currently available endoscopic accessories. Here, we demonstrate the successful application of the double-balloon platform to facilitate traction, provide stability, and allow for precise dissection of a large semi-circumferential rectal tumor.

Competing interests

Reem Z. Sharaiha is a consultant for Boston Scientific and Apollo Endosurgery.