Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided transmural drainage (EUS-TMD) is an effective treatment for collections of infected peripancreatic fluid [1]. A novel one-step device consisting of a combined lumen-apposing metal stent (LAMS) and an electrocautery-enhanced delivery system (Hot AXIOS; Boston Scientific, Marlborough, Massachusetts, USA) was recently developed [2, 3]. The stent flange interval is 10-mm long; therefore, the recommended indication for this stent is a fluid collection with a wall of <10 mm. Evaluating the precise thickness of the cavity wall before this procedure is crucial, and a LAMS should not be used if the operator cannot be certain. Here, we report a case of successful drainage of an infected hematoma using the Hot AXIOS under contrast-enhanced harmonic endoscopic ultrasonography (CH-EUS) guidance.

A 70-year-old man was diagnosed with infected walled-off necrosis (WON) caused by acute necrotizing pancreatitis (▶Fig. 1a). The infection was uncontrolled, even after multiple percutaneous and endoscopic drainage procedures. A step-up surgical necrosectomy [4] was performed and the infection was controlled temporarily; however, a newly formed blood vessel ruptured and the cavity where the WON had previously existed was filled with blood. Although the bleeding was controlled by vascular embolization, re-infection occurred 20 days after the procedure (▶Fig. 1b).

We decided to perform EUS-TMD for the infected hematoma using the Hot AXIOS. Although the lesion contained a large number of blood clots and the wall thickness could not be precisely determined using only B-mode EUS imaging (▶Fig. 2 a). Therefore, we scanned the lesion with CH-EUS. Immediately after injecting a sonographic contrast agent, the contents...
were clearly identified as an avascular area, and the cavity wall was accurately detected (▶ Fig. 2b). Subsequently, we punctured the lesion safely, which enabled proper deployment of the LAMS (▶ Fig. 3; ▶ Video 1).

These findings indicate that CH-EUS could be a useful modality to clearly visualize target lesions in cases where the cavity wall cannot be precisely evaluated for standard EUS-TMD.

Competing interests

None

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