Endoscopic removal of an eroded silicone ring after banded sleeve gastrectomy using argon plasma coagulation

A 42-year-old woman, who had undergone banded sleeve gastrectomy 9 months previously, presented to us with abdominal pain and vomiting after meals for the preceding 1 month. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy (Olympus gastroscope series 190) revealed erosion of the silicone ring in the stomach (▶ Fig. 1 a).

Removal of the eroded silicone ring was attempted using a therapeutic scope (Olympus gastroscope series 180 2T) (▶ Video 1). We grasped the ring using rat-tooth biopsy forceps and initially used endoscopic scissors to cut the ring (▶ Fig. 1 b); however, we failed to remove it. We subsequently rotated the ring using two forceps to expose the site of the suture. We then cut the suture using argon plasma coagulation (APC; 60W, flow 2L/min) (▶ Fig. 1 c) and removed the silicone ring (▶ Fig. 2). Radiographic images using oral Gastrografin on post-operative day 1 showed no evidence of leakage (▶ Fig. 3).

Ring erosion is a rare complication seen in 0 – 7% of patients undergoing banded bariatric surgery [1]. When eroded, a ring can be removed endoscopically using scissors to cut the ring [2]; however, in this case we were unable to cut the ring using endoscopic scissors and subsequently used APC to fulgurate the ring and remove it. The case shows that endoscopic scissors can fail in the removal of a post-bariatric eroded silicone ring, but that APC can be used to fulgurate the ring and remove it endoscopically, thereby circumventing the need for surgery.

Competing interests

None
Fig. 2 Photograph of the eroded silicone ring after its removal.

Fig. 3 Radiographic images using oral Gastrografin taken on post-operative day 1 showing no evidence of leakage.

The authors

Saransh Jain, Mohit Bhandari
Department of Bariatric Surgery, Mohak Bariatric and Robotics, Indore, India

Corresponding author

Mohit Bhandari, MS
Mohak Bariatrics and Robotics, Indore, India
dmohitbhandari@gmail.com

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