Wire-over-wire technique enables placement of a second parallel guidewire into a pseudocyst for drainage

Recently we reported a new technique that enables the positioning of a second guidewire following a first wire without the use of a catheter [1]. Using a wire with a double-bend tip, which forms the shape of a helix, it is possible to wrap the new wire around a first guidewire and advance it. We have already successfully demonstrated this technique in biliary interventions [1]. In the following, we present the case of a patient with a symptomatic pancreatic fluid collection, in whom we used this technique to pass a second wire into the pseudocyst to allow drainage with two double-pigtail stents.

First, we punctured the pseudocyst through the gastric wall using a 19 G needle (Cook Medical, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA). A 0.035-inch guidewire (JagWire; Boston Scientific, Natick, Massachusetts, USA) was then inserted through this needle. The guidewire was used to guide a 6-Fr cystotome into the pseudocyst to form a tract.

The procedure was switched from endoscopic ultrasound to endoscopic view. With the 6-Fr cystotome positioned beside the guidewire, a second wire with a double bend (Smart Wire, MTW Endoskopie, Wesel, Germany) was wrapped around the first wire and then advanced, thereby following the first wire into the pseudocyst. Both wires were again separated from each other using counterclockwise rotation (▶ Video 1). A 7-Fr double-pigtail stent (11-cm long) was inserted over each wire, and a good flow of pseudocyst fluid was seen endoscopically.

This case demonstrates for the first time the feasibility of inserting a second wire into a pseudocyst without using a catheter or other device. Cannulation of a pseudocyst using a catheter with a wire alongside another wire can sometimes be challenging or unsuccessful because it is only possible if the cannulation can be performed in parallel to the axis of the first wire, which is sometimes hard. Use of the Smart Wire allows the axis of the first wire to be followed automatically and the exact positioning is of little importance.

Owing to the simplicity of the technique, the wire-over-wire technique may be able to replace other techniques that have been invented for the placement of two wires into a pseudocyst, such as double cannulation through larger diameter catheters [2, 3] or other complicated techniques. In addition, no extra material is needed to perform the second wire cannulation. In conclusion, we advocate the use of the wire-over-wire technique for the placement of more than one wire into a pancreatic fluid collection.

Competing interests

J. Weigt receives procedural payments for licence business from the patent holder, the University of Magdeburg.

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