A 58-year-old man with symptoms of dysphagia and regurgitation was admitted for treatment. Evaluation with endoscopy and contrast esophagogram revealed achalasia cardia with a small mid-esophageal diverticulum and a large epiphrenic diverticulum (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). Peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) and a simultaneous endoscopic diverticuloseptotomy were performed in this case (Video 1). Firstly, submucosal injection and mucosal incision were made at about 5 cm above the epiphrenic diverticulum. Secondly, a submucosal tunnel was created pointing toward the diverticular septum and extended on both sides of the septum, i.e., the diverticular and esophageal lumen side (Fig. 3). Thirdly, complete myotomies of the muscle layer of the diverticular septum and the esophagus were performed separately. Due to technical difficulty, a small mucosal perforation occurred at the most narrow, twisted, and spasmodic part of the distal esophagus (Fig. 4). In the final step, the small mucosal injury and the entry of the tunnel were closed with endoclips. An X-ray contrast study 5 days after POEM revealed a free flow of contrast medium across the gastroesophageal junction and a collapsed epiphrenic diverticulum (Fig. 5). There was substantial improvement in the patient’s clinical symptoms as well. At the 3-month follow-up, the patient reported complete resolution of dysphagia.

POEM has been introduced for achalasia treatment as a less invasive alternative to laparoscopic Heller myotomy [1]. However, a few patients with achalasia have a co-existing large epiphrenic diverticulum, which may cause technical difficulties and increase the rates of procedure-related adverse events [2,3]. In our
case, a small esophageal mucosal injury occurred during POEM, which was completely sealed by an endoclip without any postoperative complications. Classically, a diverticulum of the middle esophagus is classified as a Rokitansky diverticulum, and it rarely attains an appreciable size or produces any symptoms [4]. We did not treat the small mid-esophageal diverticulum in this case.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AO_2AM

Fig. 3 A submucosal tunnel was created pointing toward the diverticular septum and extended on both sides of the septum.

Fig. 4 A small mucosal injury occurred at the most narrow, twisted, and spasmotic part of the distal esophagus during peroral endoscopic myotomy (black arrow).

Fig. 5 Contrast esophagogram 5 days after peroral endoscopic myotomy shows quick passage of contrast medium across the gastroesophageal junction into the stomach; the previously large diverticulum has collapsed.

Competing interests
None

The authors
Wen Li1, Fang Liu1, Liang Wu2
1 Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, The First Medical Center of Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, China
2 International Center for Diagnosis and Treatment of Liver Diseases, The Fifth Medical Center of Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, China

Corresponding author
Liang Wu
International Center for Diagnosis and Treatment of Liver Diseases, The Fifth Medical Center of Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, 100039, China
Fax: +86-10-55499107
wuliangdoc@163.com

References

Bibliography
DOI https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1059-9322
Published online: 2019
Endoscopy
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X