A 77-year-old woman with history of lung adenocarcinoma and bone metastasis presented with intractable nausea, nonbloody emesis, and abdominal pain. The patient was taking high doses of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for pain from bone metastasis. Computed tomography demonstrated a duodenal stricture and dilated common bile duct. Liver function tests showed raised bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase. Upper endoscopy showed a large obstructive hematoma just distal to the duodenal bulb. On further inspection, a large ulcer (Fig. 1) was found at the 12 to 1 o’clock position. The ulcer was biopsied to confirm the etiology (i.e. benign or malignant). As the stricture prevented the duodenoscope from progressing into a position from which conventional retrograde cannulation could be performed, a rendezvous endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography was performed using a steerable access device (Fig. 2, Video 1).

The bile duct was located using EUS and then punctured from the duodenal bulb using the sharp stylet on the access device (Fig. 3). Contrast was injected and a 0.025-inch guidewire was passed into the second and third parts of the duodenum, with the catheter in its predetermined curvature to allow for easier access (Fig. 4). A gastroscope was then used to grasp the guidewire, which was pulled out through the mouth. The biliary orifice was diluted to 6 mm using a through-the-scope balloon. Once dilation was completed, a 10 × 40 mm fully covered metal stent was deployed by retroflexing the gastroscope and leaving the guidewire in place to allow for added pushability (Fig. 5).

After stent deployment there was significant drainage of the biliary tree. The ulcer was confirmed as benign, and the patient was started on proton pump inhibitors. Her liver enzyme levels returned to normal soon after the operation, and she was invited to return 6 months later for stent removal.

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Competing interests

Dr. Kumbhari is a consultant for Apollo Endosurgery, Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Fujifilm, Pentax Medical, Obalon, and ReShape Life Sciences, and has received research support from Erbe and Apollo Endosurgery. Dr. Khashab is a consultant for Boston Scientific, Medtronic, and Olympus. All other authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Fig. 3 The steerable access catheter in the bile duct with the tip toward the liver.

Fig. 4 Cholangiogram showing contrast in the cystic duct as well as the common hepatic duct and common bile duct, with a 0.025-inch guidewire catheter passed through the stricture into the third and fourth parts of the duodenum.

Fig. 5 The retroflexed position of the gastroscope during stent deployment. Note the guidewire was not advanced into the intrahepatic ducts and remained through the duodenal bulb to allow tension to be placed on it to assist in reaching the optimal stent deployment position.

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