Percutaneous endoscopic removal of a biliary metal stent retained in the jejunum using a digital cholangioscope

Temporary placement of a biliary metal stent is a useful percutaneous treatment for benign hepaticojejunal anastomotic stricture [1–4]. However, a metal stent that has been placed will sometimes migrate spontaneously and can be retained in the jejunum. Endoscopic removal of a migrated metal stent retained in the jejunum is sometimes technically challenging and, in difficult cases, invasive surgical removal is required. Here, we describe the successful non-invasive endoscopic removal of a retained metal stent using a digital cholangioscope that was passed via the percutaneous fistula created by a percutaneous transhepatic biliary drain.

A 70-year-old man with a surgical hepaticojejunal anastomosis had suffered from recurrent cholangitis due to hepaticojejunal anastomotic stricture. As an endoscopic approach to the anastomosis using a balloon enteroscope failed because of severe adhesions, percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage was performed; however, frequent drainage catheter replacement was required. A fully covered biliary metal stent with a lasso (HANAROSTENT Biliary; Boston Scientific Corp.) was therefore placed at the anastomosis via the percutaneous fistula. The metal stent spontaneously migrated several days later and was retained in the anastomosis for 4 months, although the anastomotic stricture had improved. The patient refused surgical removal of the stent, so endoscopic removal via the percutaneous fistula using a digital cholangioscope was attempted. First, a 0.025-inch guidewire was placed near the retained metal stent. A digital cholangioscope (SpyGlass DS System; Boston Scientific Corp.) was then inserted using guidewire guidance into the jejunum through the hepaticojejunal anastomosis via the percutaneous fistula. The lasso of the metal stent was grasped with a biopsy forceps under direct visualization and was retracted into the cholangioscope. The cholangioscope was gradually pulled out through the intrahepatic bile duct and the retained metal stent was successfully removed via the percutaneous fistula. This technique is a useful and non-invasive option for removal of a retained stent.

Endoscopy UCTN_Code CPL_1AK_2AD

Competing interests

T. Itoi has received speaker’s fees from Boston Scientific Japan. The remaining authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
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Endoscopy DOI 10.1055/a-1234-6062
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2020
© 2020. Thieme. All rights reserved.
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany

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