An 80-year-old woman presented with epigastralgia. Laboratory investigations demonstrated markedly elevated cholestatic parameters and slightly elevated pancreatic enzymes, including total bilirubin 3.6 mg/dL (normal range 0.4–1.5 mg/dL), aspartate aminotransferase 725 U/L (13–30 U/L), alanine aminotransferase 637 U/L (10–42 U/L), alkaline phosphatase 353 U/L (38–113 U/L), γ-glutamyl transpeptidase 486 U/L (9–32 U/L), amylase 144 U/L (44–132 U/L), pancreatic amylase 47.2% (13.0–47.0%), and lipase 70 U/L (11–59 U/L). Her white blood cell count and C-reactive protein level were within normal limits. Abdominal computed tomography (CT) revealed a gallstone (approximately 8 mm in size) impacted at the ampulla of Vater (Fig. 1), but the gallstone was not shown on magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP). Additionally, CT and MRCP showed mild common bile duct (CBD) dilation and cholecystolithiasis, with no evidence of pancreatitis or dilatation of the pancreatic duct (Fig. 2).

Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) revealed gallstone impaction at the orifice of the ampulla of Vater, which was reddish and protruded (Fig. 3a). Cannulation via the orifice of the impacted gallstone compressed the duct of Wirsung unexpectedly. Subsequently, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) showed mild common bile duct (CBD) dilatation and cholecystolithiasis, with no evidence of pancreatitis or dilatation of the pancreatic duct (Fig. 2).
giography (ERC) was successfully performed via cannulation slightly to the oral side of the orifice of the impacted gallstone. Both ERC and intraductal ultrasonography revealed no CBD stones. After endoscopic sphincterotomy, we confirmed that the gallstone was impacted at the orifice of the duct of Wirsung (Fig. 3b). Needle-knife papillotomy was additionally performed and the gallstone was removed uneventfully (Fig. 3c, d). Finally, endoscopic biliary and pancreatic stents were inserted into the CBD and the duct of Wirsung for drainage (Video 1).

The patient’s postoperative course was good and the two stents were removed on postoperative day 1. She was discharged 7 days postoperatively.

Gallstone impaction at the orifice of the duct of Wirsung is extremely rare. Needle-knife papillotomy may be an effective endoscopic technique for treating gallstone impaction at this site.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Takashi Abe1, Takayuki Nagai1, Takehiko Nariyasu1, Marina Hamamoto1, Masato Hanzawa1, Yasuhsa Hiroshima1, Kazunari Murakami2
1 Department of Gastroenterology, Oita Kouseiren Tsurumi Hospital, Beppu, Japan
2 Department of Gastroenterology, Faculty of Medicine, Oita University, Yufu, Japan

 Renewable Energy

Corresponding author

Takashi Abe, MD, PhD
Department of Gastroenterology, Oita Kouseiren Tsurumi Hospital, Tsurumi 4333, Beppu City, Oita 874-8585, Japan
Fax: +81-977-237884
takashi0315@oita-u.ac.jp

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