Successful use of two guidewires with different properties using a double-lumen catheter for postoperative biliary stricture

The drainage of nonphysiological postoperative biliary stricture is often challenging as the severe degree of stenosis and bending make insertion of a guidewire and catheter difficult [1–4]. A 72-year-old woman with left intrahepatic bile duct dilatation was referred to our hospital, and a left lobectomy was performed for intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. Preoperative examination did not show stenosis of the common bile duct (CBD). While her postoperative course was good, biliary enzyme levels gradually increased. Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography showed sharp bending and stenosis of the CBD with dilation of the intrahepatic bile duct (Fig. 1).

The sharp bending of the stenosis prevented passage of a guidewire. The use of a hydrophilic guidewire (Radifocus, Terumo, Japan), which is soft and has good ability to penetrate a stenosis, facilitated insertion of the guidewire beyond the stenosis. However, the softness of the guidewire prevented the catheter from passing through the stenosis (Fig. 2). A harder guidewire was used to straighten the bend and improve the insertion performance of the device; however, the stiff guidewire could not pass readily through the stricture.

We used an uneven, double-lumen catheter (UDLC; PIOLAX, Tokyo, Japan), so called because the lumen orifices have different diameters and are located at different points on the catheter [5] (Fig. 3). The UDLC was inserted using a soft guidewire through the distal lumen, and only the tip was advanced slightly into the stricture. With the adjustment of the catheter axis, a stiff guidewire was successfully inserted beyond the stenosis through the proximal lumen. The double guidewire helped to slightly straighten the sharp bending of the stenosis (Fig. 4). Finally, an endoscopic nasobiliary drainage tube was placed successfully (Fig. 5, Video 1).

This double-guidewire method using a double-lumen catheter, which uses the properties of each guidewire according to the situation, may be useful for biliary stenosis with a severe degree of flexion.
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Mamoru Takenaka, Tomohiro Yamazaki, Yasuo Otsuka, Rei Ishikawa, Masatoshi Kudo
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Kindai University Faculty of Medicine, Osaka-Sayama, Japan

Corresponding author

Mamoru Takenaka, MD
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Kindai University Faculty of Medicine, 377-2 Ohno-Higashi, Osaka-Sayama, 589-8511, Japan
mamoxyo45@gmail.com

Fig. 3 The uneven, double-lumen catheter (UDLC; PIOLAX, Tokyo, Japan). a, b The lumen orifices have different diameters and are located at different points on the catheter to enable delivery of two guidewires with different properties.
References


Bibliography

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