A rare case of bilateral Killian-Jamieson diverticula treated endoscopically

A 68-year-old man presented with progressive dysphagia to solids and liquids, regurgitation of undigested food, and weight loss for the past three years. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy followed by a barium esophagram revealed two contralateral diverticula in the cervical esophagus just below the cricopharyngeus. They measured 2 cm and 4 cm and were filled with food debris, consistent with two synchronous Killian-Jamieson diverticula (Fig. 1). After multidisciplinary evaluation, endoscopic treatment was proposed.

The procedure was performed under general anesthesia with endotracheal intubation. A submucosal bleb was created proximal to the diverticula in the posterior wall, followed by a 1.5-cm mucosal incision (Video 1). A submucosal tunnel was created, which was then extended to both the end of the larger diverticulum and the proximal esophagus (Fig. 2). Tunneling was continued until the bottom of the diverticulum was reached. The septum was thus entirely exposed and a complete septotomy was performed (Fig. 3, Fig. 4). Finally, the mucosal incision was closed using six clips. The procedure took 60 minutes and there were no complications.

The patient progressed well and a postprocedural barium esophagram confirmed the absence of any extraluminal oral contrast leak. At 4 months after the procedure, the patient remains asymptomatic on a regular diet.

A Killian-Jamieson diverticulum is an unusual form of esophageal diverticulum arising from a muscular gap in the anterolateral wall of the proximal cervical esophagus [1]. It can present with symptoms similar to those of a Zenker’s diverticulum and presents anatomic challenges for any intervention, particularly owing to the high risk of injury to the recurrent laryngeal nerve [1]. Because of its rare incidence, treatment remains controversial [1]. Endoscopic therapies
have been reported as safe and effective [1–3]. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case of the use of the peroral endoscopic myotomy technique for the treatment of two Killian–Jamieson diverticula.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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