Efficacy of under-gel endoscopic mucosal resection method for colonic lesion extending into the diverticulum

Underwater endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) is currently performed in various situations [1–4]. One advantage to using water is the buoyancy effect on the mucosa, which raises it from the deeper muscularis propria without submucosal injection [1]. However, it takes time to fill the intestinal tract with water, leading to an increased risk of peristalsis and abdominal distension. In addition, underwater EMR on lesions extending into narrow spaces can be difficult to snare because constant water pressure is required. Here, we present a case in which a colonic adenoma extending into the diverticulum was successfully resected using “under-gel EMR” via VISCOCLEAR, a gel product for endoscopic procedures (Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Tokushima, Japan).

A 77-year-old man presented with a protruded lesion extending into the diverticulum; it was approximately 10 mm in size and located in the ascending colon (▶ Fig. 1). Submucosal saline injection was difficult; therefore, we sought to perform under-gel EMR (▶ Video 1). We used a PCF Q260JI colonoscope (Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan) with approximately 100 ml of VISCOCLEAR. Sufficient buoyancy for excision and visualization of the lesion margin extending to the diverticulum was confirmed under gel; therefore, snaring was performed using the SnareMaster (10 mm; Olympus Medical Systems) (▶ Fig. 2, ▶ Fig. 3). A high-frequency electrical generator (VIO 3; Erbe Elektromedizin, Tübingen, Germany) was used with ENDO CUT Q settings. We successfully resected the lesion en bloc and closed the mucosal defect with clips (▶ Fig. 4). The pathological result was high grade dysplasia with a negative margin (▶ Fig. 5).

Under-gel EMR does not require filling the lumen, so it takes less time and results in less peristalsis and distension. In addition, snaring of lesions is easier in narrow spaces, such as the diverticula,
because constant water pressure is not required. This new treatment has the potential to be useful and effective for colorectal tumors.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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