Downstream balloon dilation technique for endoscopic removal of an impacted pancreatic duct stone after pancreatoduodenectomy

Endoscopic retrograde pancreateography is an established modality for the treatment of pancreatic duct stones [1,2]. Although it is technically challenging in patients with prior pancreatoduodenectomy [3,4], balloon-assisted endoscopic retrograde pancreateography and/or endoscopic ultrasound-guided pancreatic drainage has been increasingly utilized to manage pancreatic diseases in patients with surgically altered anatomy [5]. Here we report a simple and feasible technique for the endoscopic removal of an impacted pancreatic duct stone after pancreatoduodenectomy using a short-type single-balloon enteroscope.

A 61-year-old man, who underwent pylorus-preserving pancreatoduodenectomy with modified Child’s reconstruction three years earlier for pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor, was referred to our department for the treatment of acute pancreatitis. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography showed three radiopaque stones in the main duct; one of the three stones was impacted in the main pancreatic duct, resulting in obstructive pancreatitis (Fig. 1). Therefore, an endoscopic intervention was performed using a short-type single-balloon enteroscope (SIF-H290S; Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan) with a transparent hood. A tapered double-lumen catheter with a tip diameter of 3.6 Fr (Uneven Double Lumen Cannula Standard Type; Piolax Medical Devices, Kanagawa, Japan) was advanced through the pancreaticojejunostomy anastomosis, and a 0.025-inch guidewire (VisiGlide 2; Olympus Medical Systems) was placed into the pancreatic duct; however, the catheter could not pass through the impacted stone at all. After placing an additional guidewire, the section downstream of the stone was dilated with a 6-mm balloon catheter (REN; Kaneka Medix, Osaka, Japan) (Fig. 2a), and as the balloon deflated, the impacted stone moved downstream toward the balloon (Fig. 2b, Video 1).

Finally, the pancreatic stones were successfully retrieved by using a wire-guided basket catheter (TetraCatch V; Olympus Medical Systems) (Fig. 2c, Fig. 3). The downstream balloon dilation technique is simple and is worth a try when confronting impacted pancreatic duct stones.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
Video 1 Downstream balloon dilation technique for endoscopic removal of an impacted pancreatic duct stone after pancreateoduodenectomy.

The authors

Sho Kitagawa, Shiori Ishikawa, Kelya Okamura
Department of Gastroenterology, Sapporo Kosei General Hospital, Sapporo, Japan

Corresponding author

Sho Kitagawa, MD
Department of Gastroenterology, Sapporo Kosei General Hospital, Kita 3 Higashi 8, Chuo-ku, Sapporo 060-0038, Japan
Fax: +81 11 271 5320
bossa0405@yahoo.co.jp

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Endoscopy 2022; 54: E506–E507
DOI 10.1055/a-1645-1335
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 15.1.2021
© 2021. Thieme. All rights reserved.
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany

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Fig. 3 Endoscopic view of pancreatic duct stones retrieved from the main pancreatic duct.