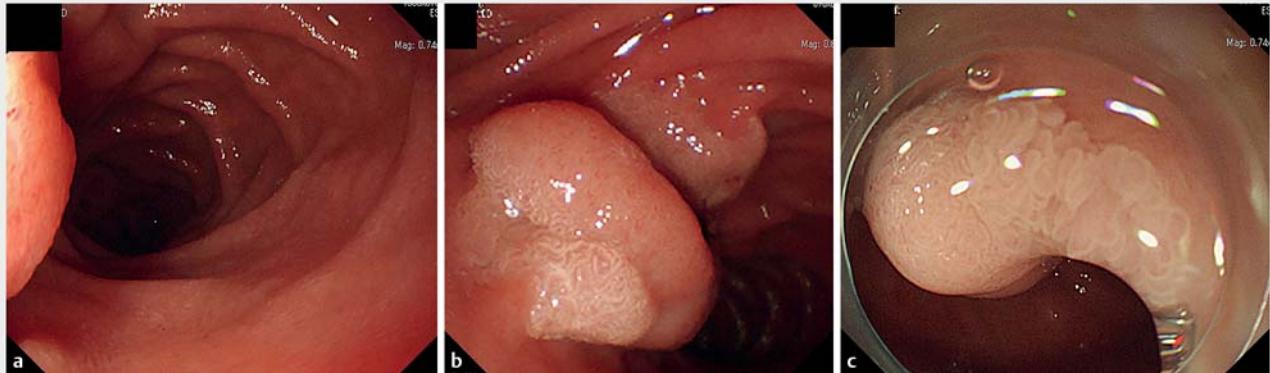


Timing of Kocher maneuver in laparoscopic endoscopic cooperative surgery for duodenum tumor: Before or after endoscopic submucosal dissection?

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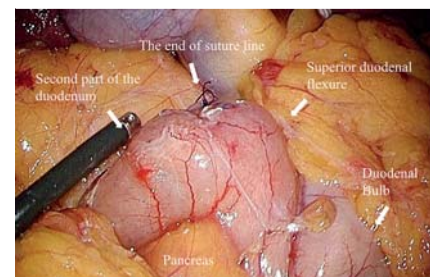
► **Fig. 1** **a** Preoperative forward-viewing endoscopy did not provide adequate visualization due to unstable access to the duodenal tumor. **b** Only side-viewing endoscopy provided a view sufficient for evaluation. **c** Intraoperative endoscopic view of the duodenal tumor with a forward-viewing endoscope after Kocher maneuver, showing an image entirely different from that obtained before the maneuver.

We read with great interest the recent article by Otowa and colleagues [1]. They retrospectively evaluated the short-term outcomes of 10 patients with superficial non-ampullary duodenal epithelial tumors (SNADET) treated by laparoscopic endoscopic cooperative surgery for duodenum tumor (D-LECS) and reported their techniques in detail. Based on the high rate of intraoperative perforation in their study (40%), ensuring confirmation and reinforcement of the thin duodenal wall appears to be mandatory after endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD). Given that duodenal ESD alone is associated with a high rate of complications, such as delayed perforation [2], we totally agree with them that laparoscopic seromuscular suture would effectively prevent such an event.

D-LECS consists mainly of ESD and laparoscopic reinforcement. The former is essential for this procedure. Because loss of duodenal fixation on the retroperitoneum caused difficulty with ESD, Otowa and colleagues clearly advocated the Kocher maneuver, mobilization of the duodenum and head of the pancreas from the retroperitoneum, not being

completed before ESD. However, whether this procedure is optimally performed before versus after ESD depends on duodenal tumor location.

A 56-year-old man underwent screening esophagogastroduodenoscopy, which revealed a villous protruding lesion located slightly distal to the superior duodenal flexure. Forward-viewing endoscopy did not provide acceptable tumor visualization (► **Fig. 1a**), necessitating the use of a side-viewing endoscope for precise examination (► **Fig. 1b**). The pathological diagnosis, based on the biopsy specimen, was tubular adenoma. Accordingly, the ESD technique did not seem to be technically feasible due to unstable access to the duodenal tumor using a forward-viewing endoscope, such that D-LECS would be contraindicated. We used the upfront Kocher maneuver to fully detach the duodenum from the retroperitoneum, to modify accessibility to the tumor with a forward-viewing endoscope (FVE). As expected, the endoscopic appearance on the FVE was effectively changed (► **Fig. 1c**) and an adequate visual field was obtained during ESD. After completion of ESD, the sero-



► **Fig. 2** Intraoperative findings after laparoscopic seromuscular suture at the ESD site, located at the dorsal portion of the beginning of the second part of the duodenum.

muscular layer at the ESD site was reinforced laparoscopically (► **Fig. 2**).

Increasing duodenal mobility by applying the Kocher maneuver might hamper the duodenal ESD procedure [1]. However, our case clearly raises the possibility that altering duodenal anatomy is worth trying to facilitate endoscopic treatment of tumors previously assumed to be unsuitable for this procedure by endoscopists. Because D-LECS appears to be the optimal treatment option for SNADET, collaborative trials involving

surgeons and endoscopists are encouraged to establish and promote safe management of this tumor.

Competing interests

KH have received lecture fees from KARL STORZ Endoscopy Japan and Ethicon. TG have received lecture fees from FUJIFILM Medical, FUJIFILM, Olympus, MC Medical, Daiichi Sankyo, AstraZeneca, EA Pharma, AbbVie GK, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma, Boston Scientific and Viartis. HY have received lecture fees from Taiho Pharmaceutical, Ono Pharmaceutical, Bristol Myers Squibb, Viartis, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Kaken Pharmaceutical, Daiichi Sankyo, Eli Lilly and Ethicon.

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