Many techniques have been described for the removal of proximally migrated pancreatic duct (PD) stents, with a reported success rate of 80% [1]. Success depends on the location of the stent and caliber of PD. In general, it is more difficult if the PD is narrow or not dilated and the stent is located in the pancreatic tail.

A 64-year-old woman underwent a routine endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) for choledocholithiasis and received a straight 5-Fr plastic PD stent placement owing to difficult biliary cannulation. Unfortunately, the PD stent migrated to the pancreatic genu and attempts at removal using a Dormia basket and rat tooth forceps pushed the stent deeper beyond the genu.

Owing to the COVID-19 situation, a conventional wire-guided Soehendra stent retriever was not available in our country and would have needed a few months for delivery. Balloon and grasping devices were again unsuccessfully used in an attempt to remove the PD stent. A third ERCP was performed 2 days later. The plan to snare the distal end of the PD stent using a “lasso-over-the-guidewire” technique [2] was unsuccessful because the distal stent edge abutted the PD wall, preventing the snare wire from looping around the migrated PD stent.

With the use of Hi-Torque Command 0.018-inch guidewire (Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, Illinois, USA), a VisiGlide 2 0.025-inch straight-tip guidewire (Olympus Medical, Tokyo, Japan), and a 4-mm microsnare and microcatheter, we report this novel “closed-loop” method of removing a migrated PD stent in the tail of the pancreas, where conventional techniques failed and the wire-guided stent retriever was not available (Fig. 1, Video 1). This method securely removes the impacted stent with minimal trauma to the pancreatic duct.

E-Videos

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Video 1 Novel "closed-loop" method to retrieve proximally migrated pancreatic duct stent.