Successful biliary drainage in a patient with a giant hiatal hernia and pancreatic prolapse using the percutaneous–endoscopic rendezvous technique

In patients who have a giant hiatal hernia, it is often difficult to advance a duodenoscope to the papilla of Vater [1]. In extremely rare cases of pancreatic prolapse into the thoracic cavity, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) is challenging because the orientation of the bile and pancreatic ducts is inverted [2, 3]. Herein, we report a case of successful biliary drainage, performed using the percutaneous–endoscopic rendezvous technique, in a patient with a giant hiatal hernia and pancreatic prolapse [4]. An 88-year-old woman was transferred from another hospital for treatment of obstructive jaundice due to distal bile duct cancer. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography revealed a giant hiatal hernia with pancreatic prolapse into the thoracic cavity (Fig.1). Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography revealed that the orientation of the bile duct was inverted (Fig.2). Although ERCP was attempted with a duodenoscope, access to the papilla was difficult owing to the giant hiatal hernia. We did reach the papilla using a forward-viewing scope (SIF-H290S; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan), but attempted biliary cannulation failed, even after performing precutting. Subsequently, the percutaneous–endoscopic rendezvous technique was performed. The B5 bile duct was punctured percutaneously, and the guidewire (Visi-Glide 2; Olympus) was advanced to the duodenum. The forward-viewing scope was advanced to the papilla, and biliary cannulation was achieved alongside the guidewire (Fig.3). Finally, a covered self-expanding metal stent (WallFlex Biliary RX Stent, 10×60 mm; Boston Scientific Corp., Natick, Massachusetts, USA) was successfully deployed (Video 1; Fig.4). The patient was discharged 4 days after the procedure without any adverse events. She had no symptoms until a year later, when the jaundice again flared up.

More recently, endoscopic ultrasonography-guided biliary drainage has been developed but, in patients with a giant hiatal hernia, there is a risk of mediastinitis occurring from the punctured thoracic cavity. Consideration of a multidisciplinary approach is indispensable to ensure patient safety in difficult cases.

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Competing interests

A. Katanuma has received lecture fees from Olympus Co., Tokyo, Japan. The remaining authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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