A novel endoscopic technique for closure of two gastro-gastric fistulas in a single session using an endoscopic helix tacking device

A gastro-gastric fistula is a rare but well-known complication of Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery, which can lead to weight regain and ulceration [1]. Most commonly, surgical approaches are used to repair such defects [2]; however, endoscopic repair methods have also been used with various success rates [3]. We report the first case of the endoscopic closure of multiple gastro-gastric fistulas in a single session, using an X-Tack Endoscopic HeliX Tacking System (Apollo Endosurgery, Inc., Austin, Texas, USA).

A 34-year-old man presented with upper abdominal pain, accompanied by weight loss of 70 kgs during the 12 months since he had undergone bariatric surgery. The patient had a history of laparoscopic adjustable gastric band surgery, which had been converted to a mini-gastric bypass after he had regained his presurgery weight. Index endoscopy revealed a 4-cm gastric pouch, with two gastro-gastric fistulas between the gastric pouch and the excluded gastric remnant, one measuring 12 mm and the other 8 mm (Fig. 1a).

Each fistula was cauterized using argon plasma coagulation (APC) to remove the mucosa and encourage healing fibrosis. The X-Tack Endoscopic HeliX Tacking device was then used with 12 helices, along with prolene 2–0 sutures, to close both fistulas, which were covered with a layer of normal mucosa (Fig. 1b). As shown in Video 1, no visible tract was noted at the conclusion of the procedure and a patent anastomosis was retained.

A computed tomography scan was performed 2 months later, which showed no extravasation of oral contrast material from the gastric pouch to the excluded gastric remnant, indicating durable closure of the fistulas. The patient currently remains pain free and has started to gain weight since the procedure.

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors
Lidor Akavia1, Iris Dotan1,2, Gerard Aguila1, Steven Shamah1
1 Rabin Medical Center, Division of Gastroenterology, Petah Tikva, Israel
2 Tel Aviv University, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv, Israel
References


Bibliography

Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1838-3306
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2022
© 2022. The Author(s).
This is an open access article published by Thieme under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonDerivative-NonCommercial License, permitting copying and reproduction so long as the original work is given appropriate credit. Contents may not be used for commercial purposes, or adapted, remixed, transformed or built upon. (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany

Endoscopy E-Videos is an open access online section, reporting on interesting cases and new techniques in gastroenterological endoscopy. All papers include a high quality video and all contributions are freely accessible online. Processing charges apply (currently EUR 375), discounts and waivers acc. to HINARI are available.

This section has its own submission website at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/e-videos