Endoscopic bilateral biliary plastic stent placement is considered a viable option for drainage in patients with an unresectable malignant hilar obstruction [1]. Recently, a dedicated inside plastic stent with removal of threads emerged for malignant hilar obstruction, with a longer patency period and easier removal [2,3]. However, the multiple inside plastic stent method harbors the risk of preceding stent migration owing to shear stress caused by the succeeding stents [4]. This article describes tips for preventing preceding stent migration using micro-alligator forceps through the two-devices-in-one-channel method [5].

An 88-year-old woman with previously inserted bilateral inside plastic stents (Through & Pass, 7 Fr × 9 cm; Gadelius Medical, Tokyo, Japan) for malignant hilar obstruction (▶ Fig. 1) was admitted to our hospital because of stent dysfunction; accordingly, exchange of transpapillary inside plastic stents was performed.

▶ Fig. 1 Previous bilateral inside plastic stents for malignant hilar obstruction. Previous inside stents were placed over the perihilar obstruction.

▶ Fig. 2 Endoscopic and fluoroscopic images of prevention of first stent migration using the two-devices-in-one-channel method in case of second stent advancement. a Before advancing the second stent, the micro-alligator forceps grasped the removal threads of the first stent and withdrew those threads into the scope channel. b The grasped removal threads were released in the duodenal lumen following completion.
The first inside plastic stent indwelled over the left intrahepatic duct after removing the previous stents using a duodenoscope (JF260V; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). Next, micro-alligator forceps (biopsy forceps, 1 mm; MTW Endoscopy Manufacture, Wesel, Germany) were inserted into the scope channel using the two-devices-in-one-channel method [5] on the point of the second indwelling inside plastic stent. The forceps could grasp the removable threads attached to the first stent and withdraw the threads into the scope channel (▶ Fig. 2a, ▶ Video 1). The forceps were fixed by a locking device attached to the duo-denoscope. Therefore, the second inside plastic stent was advanced over the right hepatic duct without inward migration owing to countertraction against the shear stress. Finally, the grasped threads were released into the duodenal lumen (▶ Fig. 2b, ▶ Video 1).

The multiple inside plastic stent method for malignant hilar obstruction harbors issues caused by succeeding plastic stents, not only owing to the inward migration of the first stent [4] but also the difficulty in adjusting the first stent positioning. The two-devices-in-one-channel method [5] with microforceps can solve this problem.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Tesshin Ban* Yoshimasu Kubota, Takuya Takahama, Shun Sasoh, Tomoaki Ando, Makoto Nakamura, Takashi Joh Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Gamagori City Hospital, Gamagori, Aichi, Japan

Corresponding author

Tesshin Ban, MD

Gamagori City Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, 1-1 Mukaida, Hirata, Gamagori, Aichi 443-8501, Japan

Fax: +81 533 66 2295

venzosan0204@gmail.com

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