Spasmodic contraction induced by high concentration iodine staining to facilitate underwater endoscopic mucosal resection of early esophageal cancer

A 61-year-old man was diagnosed with early esophageal cancer by endoscopy and pathological biopsy. The lesion of about 1 cm in diameter met the indications for endoscopic resection after preoperative evaluation. The markers around the lateral margin of cancer were made by the snare tip with soft coagulation (Effect 5, 80 W) (Fig. 1a). Conventional underwater endoscopic mucosal resection (UEMR) was attempted first and failed owing to the inability to fully snare the lesion. Therefore we stimulated the esophageal wall with a high concentration of 3% Lugol solution causing spasmodic contraction. UEMR was performed during spasmodic contraction, completely snaring the target lesion to obtain en bloc resection with an ENDO CUT Q (Effect 3, Cut duration 2, Cut interval 4) (Erbe Elektromedizin GmbH, Tübingen, Germany) (Fig. 1b). The wound was clean without bleeding or perforation (Fig. 1c). The fresh specimen was stretched and fixed on a foam plate, with R0 resection proved by the second iodine staining with a low concentration of 1% Lugol solution (Fig. 1d). Finally, the vitamin C solution was sprayed for deiodination. The post-resection histological findings revealed pathological lamina propria invasion (pT1α-LPM) and negative vertical and horizontal margins (Fig. 1e). The patient was discharged on the second day after the operation (Video 1).

UEMR is becoming more and more popular for complete resection of gastrointestinal tumors but rarely reported for endoscopic resection of early esophageal cancer, which may be related to the difficulty to fully snare the lesion [1]. We propose that the spasmodic contraction-assisted UEMR technique may successfully and inexpensively be applied to deal with early esophageal cancer 1–2 cm in size.

Corresponding author
Song He, MD
Department of Gastroenterology, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, No. 76 Liniang Road, Yuzhong District, Chongqing 400000, P. R. China
hedorctor65@cqmu.edu.cn

Reference

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

The authors
Chao Deng¹, Suhua Wu¹, Feng Xu¹, Li Zhong¹, Ying Huang², Zhechuan Mei¹, Song He¹

¹ Department of Gastroenterology, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, China
² Department of Pathology, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, China

* Contributed equally
Video 1 Spasmodic contraction-assisted underwater endoscopic mucosal resection of early esophageal cancer.