Endoscopic full-thickness resection is a safe and effective method for the treatment of sigmoid schwannomas

We report the case of a 49-year-old man with a distal sigmoid schwannoma that was accidentally found during a screening colonoscopy. The patient was referred to our Center for further evaluation. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) confirmed the presence of a sigmoid lesion showing a well-circumscribed hyperenhancing mass of 10 mm in diameter, compatible with a gastrointestinal stromal tumor. We decided to perform a full-thickness resection (FTR) of the lesion (▶ Video 1). Chromoendoscopy showed the submucosal lesion located in the distal sigmoid colon, near to a previously placed endoscopic tattoo (▶ Fig. 1 a). First, the edges of the lesion were marked with the FTR device (FTRD) Marking Probe (Olympus) (▶ Fig. 1 b), the lesion was pulled into the FTRD System Set (Ovesco Endoscopy) (▶ Fig. 1 c) and then removed, with placement of an over-the-scope (OTS) clip (▶ Fig. 1 d). The resected lesion was recovered outside and placed on a cork for histological analysis (▶ Fig. 2). No periprocedural complications were observed. Later the same day, after an adequate period of observation, the patient was discharged from our hospital in good general condition. At 3- and 6-month follow-up, rectosigmoidoscopy showed a flat and regular scar, with no macroscopic signs of residual tissue or recurrence, confirming the complete resection of the lesion.

Schwannomas are benign, encapsulated, slow-growing, and usually solitary tumors originating from Schwann cells of the peripheral nerve sheath [1]. In the literature, only two papers have been published on the treatment of schwannomas with FTR [2,3]. Our experience confirms that FTR, performed by experienced endoscopists, represents a safe and curative technique for the treatment of this rare neoplasm of the gastrointestinal tract.

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the future, prospective studies with a larger number of patients are needed for further validation of this technique in the treatment of schwannomas.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

References


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