Clip-anchored floss traction-assisted endoscopic submucosal dissection combined with endoscopic tunneling in treatment of long circumferential early esophageal carcinoma

During endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) for large esophageal lesions, problems like lumen obstruction caused by distal contraction of the detached tissue, narrow submucosal space, and poor exposure of the submucosa often occur [1–3]. Although tunneling techniques can reportedly treat such lesions, they have not been able to resolve the issue of the dissected tissue clogging the lumen, and dissecting the ridges between the tunnels is challenging [4, 5]. In this study, we used a tunneling technique combined with floss traction to improve the long circumferential ESD of early esophageal cancer (Video 1).

A 64-year-old woman was treated with ESD for a circular early esophageal cancer 7 cm in length. (Fig. 1a). Circumferential markings and incisions were made at the anal and oral sides of the lesion. The dental floss was fixed to the mucosal flap on the oral side with a clip to apply appropriate traction (Fig. 1b). The submucosal fibers were stretched gently, and the submucosal space was thoroughly exposed; then, a wide tunnel was established from the oral side to the anal edge (Fig. 1c). Continuous traction was applied by pulling the floss, and the dissected tissue clogging the lumen was avoided, hence the lesion was then efficiently dissected (Fig. 1d). After the lesion was fully dissected, it showed a completely circumferential 8-cm surgical wound with a smooth surface and no muscle damage (Fig. 1e). The specimen was easily extracted by simply pulling the floss (Fig. 1f).

The tunneling technique combined with floss traction not only expands the space of the tunnel cavity but also avoids the obstruction of the surgical field of view by contraction of the dissected tissue. In addition, the tension provided significantly reduces the difficulty of dissecting the ridges between the tunnels. As the technology is simple to operate, it may be an attractive option for treating long circumferential early esophageal cancer.
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References


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