Endoscopic therapy for bleeding peptic ulcers located in the posterior duodenum or stomach can be cumbersome because the working channel of the gastroscope is located on the left, making it difficult to treat these ulcers, which are generally located on the right side [1–3]. The working channel of the colonoscope is located on the right side (i.e., at the 5 o’clock position), thus offering potential improvement in the application of endoscopic therapies for such lesions.

We have used a colonoscope to achieve hemostasis in four patients (mean age 73 years, range 65–91 years) with posterior duodenal or gastric ulcers in whom therapy using a gastroscope had failed. All patients presented with significant hemorrhage (mean pulse 102 bpm, range 90–110 bpm; mean blood pressure 95/60 mmHg; mean hemoglobin level 7.5 g/dL, range 5.9–9.0 g/dL). All ulcers were actively bleeding and had a mean diameter of 20 mm (range 10–30 mm). After failed hemostasis, a colonoscope (CFQ1651, Olympus, Germany) was used. The accessory equipment could be easily advanced through the working channel and its exit at the 5 o’clock position permitted endotherapy with epinephrine and clips (HX-610–090L, Olympus, Japan) (Fig. 1 and 2). The clips were always expanded before application just distal to the ulcer. Then the clip-delivery catheter was pulled inside of the scope, maintaining the expanded clip just a few millimeters distally to the scope tip. The colonoscope was then carefully pulled...
back, while the expanded clip was advanced towards the visible vessel or bleeding lesion, where it was released. The mean number of clips used was 3 (range 2–5). Immediate and permanent hemostasis was achieved in all patients. We conclude that, due to the position of the working channel on the right side, a colonoscope may be a useful alternative for the successful application of endotherapy for bleeding ulcers located in the posterior duodenum or stomach.

References

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Corresponding author
K. Mönkemüller, MD, PhD
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Infectious Diseases
Universitätsklinikum Magdeburg
Otto-von-Guericke University
Leipziger Straße 44
39120 Magdeburg
Germany
Fax: +49-391-6713105
klaus.moenkemueller@med.ovgu.de