

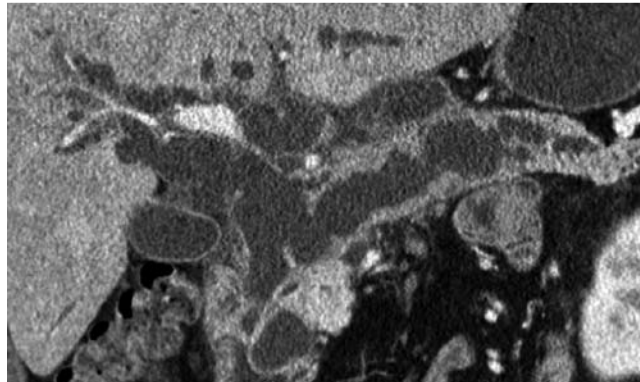
## Direct peroral pancreatoscopy with an ultraslim endoscope for the evaluation of intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasms

It is often difficult to distinguish between benign and malignant intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasms (IPMNs) of the pancreas and to determine their exact extent. Peroral pancreatoscopy including narrow-band imaging (NBI) is useful for the evaluation of these neoplasms [1,2], but it is technically difficult and requires two skilled endoscopists and endoscopic systems [3]. The ultraslim upper endoscope has been proposed for direct visual examination of the biliopancreatic duct by a single operator [4,5]. However, the usefulness of direct peroral pancreatoscopy (D-POP) is clinically limited by the inconsistent success rates owing to the inability to keep the position of endoscope stable. An intraductal balloon passed through the endoscope may permit ease of access and stable positioning of the endoscope within the pancreatic duct. After anchoring the intraductal balloon within the proximal pancreatic duct, the endoscope can be advanced over the balloon catheter.

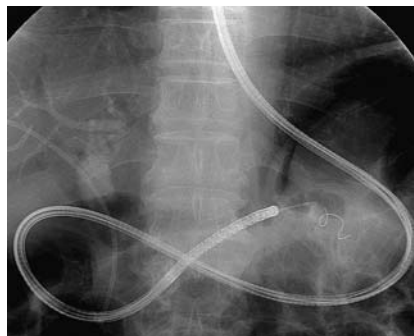
The feasibility of intraductal balloon-guided D-POP with NBI was evaluated in four patients with IPMNs (● Fig. 1). An ultraslim upper endoscope (GIF-XP260N; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) was advanced directly through the major papilla into the pancreatic duct assisted by a 5-Fr intraductal balloon catheter (MTW Endoskopie, Wesel, Germany) (● Fig. 2, ● Video 1). NBI and forceps biopsy were carried out during D-POP, which showed the papillary tumor with villous lesions in the pancreatic duct (● Fig. 3). NBI showed the surface structure and capillary vessels of the lesion with greater clarity (● Fig. 4, ● Video 2).

All patients successfully underwent intraductal balloon-guided D-POP with NBI without procedure-related complications. Biopsy specimens showed adenocarcinomas in two patients and adenoma with dysplasia in one patient (● Fig. 5), all of whom were recommended surgery. The fourth patient had chronic inflammation and is being followed up regularly.

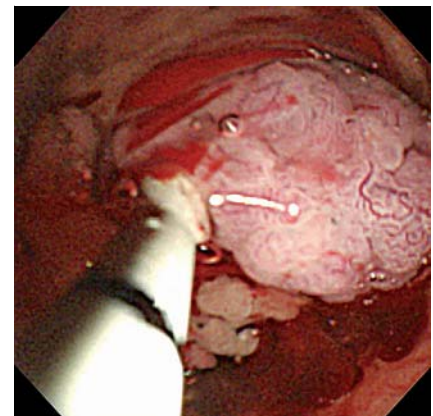
In conclusion, the high success rate in this case series illustrates the feasibility of using intraductal balloon-guided D-POP with an ultraslim endoscope in patients with IPMNs.



**Fig. 1** Curved multi-planar reconstructed computed tomography image showing marked dilated main pancreatic duct and bile duct.



**Fig. 2** An ultraslim upper endoscope inserted into the pancreatic duct assisted by an intraductal balloon catheter.



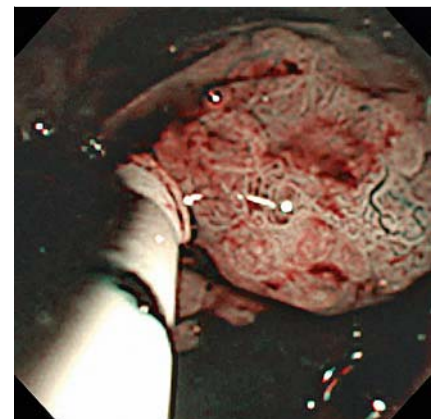
**Fig. 3** Direct peroral pancreatoscopy with an ultraslim endoscope showed a papillary tumor with villous lesions.

### Video 1

Intraductal balloon-guided direct peroral pancreatoscopy (D-POP) using an ultraslim endoscope advanced from the distal to proximal pancreatic duct assisted by an intraductal balloon catheter.

### Video 2

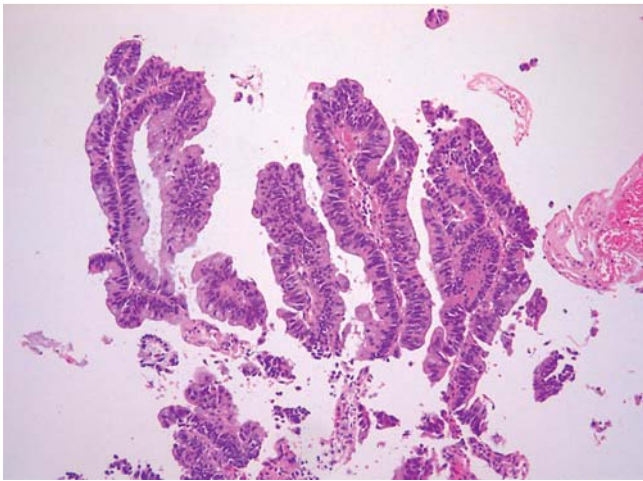
An ultraslim endoscope for direct peroral pancreatoscopy (D-POP) advanced into the pancreatic duct and providing images of a villous and papillary mass. Narrow band imaging (NBI) observation more clearly identified the lesion's surface structure and microvessels.



**Fig. 4** Narrow band imaging (NBI) showed the surface structure and capillaries in the lesion with greater clarity.

### Acknowledgment

The authors thank Olympus Korea for providing the ultraslim upper endoscope for this study.



**Fig. 5** Microscopically, the papillae are long and villiform, and the nuclei are elongated and show mild degree of pseudostratification and intranuclear mucin (H & E,  $\times 100$ ).

Endoscopy\_UCTN\_Code\_TTT\_1AR\_2AB

**Competing interests:** None

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### Bibliography

**DOI** 10.1055/s-0030-1256933

*Endoscopy* 2011; 43: E390–E391

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ISSN 0013-726X

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