Balloon-catheter-assisted endoscopic snare resection for choledochocele using a single-channel duodenoscope

Choledochocele, or type III choledochal cyst in Todani's classification, is a rare congenital disease [1–3]. Pancreatobiliary symptoms and the risk of malignancy are the reasons for treatment, which is usually done by surgical excision or, in some cases, by endoscopic resection [2–5].

A 75-year-old man with abdominal pain, jaundice, occasional fever, elevated canalicular enzymes, conjugated bilirubin (1.3 mg/dL, normal range 0.1–0.4 mg/dL) and cholelithiasis, and choledocholithiasis with common bile duct dilatation as seen on ultrasonography and CT scan, underwent endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), which also revealed a choledochocele ([Fig. 1]). The patient refused surgery and a balloon-catheter-assisted endoscopic snare resection with a single-channel therapeutic duodenoscope was performed.

After catheterization of the common bile duct with a guide wire, a balloon catheter was passed through the loop of a 20-mm-diameter snare which wrapped around the wire and was then inserted deeply into the choledochocele ([Fig. 2]). The insufflated balloon was pulled back toward the duodenal lumen and the snare grasped close to the base of the choledochocele, and the marsupialization was completed ([Fig. 3]). After this, sphincterotomy was performed and stones removed.

The cyst had duodenal mucosa externally and choledochal mucosa internally with no atypical changes. A laparoscopic cholecystectomy was done and the patient remains without symptoms and with normal findings on endoscopic follow-up after 1 year ([Fig. 4]).

The risk of biliary duct perforation during surgical resection is well known; however, because endoscopic resection is a new method, the risk it presents is as yet unknown; more studies are needed on this subject. The technique employed here has been described before using a double-channel duodenoscope, and this is easier because it is not necessary to manage the accessories outside of the duodenoscope before introducing the whole system into the channel [5]. However, since a double-channel duodenoscope is not available in all hospitals, the present case report shows that the single-channel technique can be performed with the same results and is also an innovative and minimally invasive technique for the treatment of symptomatic choledochocele.

Competing interests: None
J. Hiratsuka, T. Akiba, M. Kucera Kesties, P. Brant, L. Costa Almeida
Endoscopy Department, Santa Casa de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

References


Bibliography
Endoscopy 2012; 44: E6 – E7
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
J. Hiratsuka, MD
Endoscopy Department, Santa Casa de São Paulo
Rua Marquês de Itu, no 382 ap 73 – Vila Buarque
São Paulo
CEP 01223-000
Brazil
jhiratsuka@uol.com.br

Fig. 3  Balloon-catheter-assisted endoscopy snare resection technique: schematic diagram and endoscopic image.

Fig. 4  Follow-up 1 year after endoscopic resection.