Another option for biliary access in post-bypass patient: intentional disruption of a gastric staple line

Obese and post-Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) patients are at increased risk of cholelithiasis and associated biliary disorders [1–3]. Because of the complicated postsurgical anatomy, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) may be more difficult, requiring deep enteroscopy or laparoscopic assistance. We report a case of intentional disruption of the gastric remnant-excluded stomach staple line to gain access to the duodenum for treatment of cholechocholithiasis. A 72-year-old woman with past medical history of recent four-vessel cardiac artery bypass, oxygen-dependent chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dialysis-dependent end-stage renal disease, and a Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (with cholecystectomy) 30 years ago.

Fig. 1 Fistula tract with wire in a 72-year-old woman who had recently undergone four-vessel cardiac artery bypass, and also had oxygen-dependent chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dialysis-dependent end-stage renal disease, and a Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (with cholecystectomy) 30 years ago.

Fig. 2 Fluoroscopic image of cannulatome and wire through staple line fistula into excluded stomach.

Fig. 3 Dilated fistula tract.

Fig. 4 Fluoroscopic image of duodenoscope traversing the disrupted staple line and cholangiogram showing cholechocholithiasis.

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ly intubated to 60 cm, but could not be advanced to the level of the papilla. On removing the colonoscope, scant bile was noted in the gastric pouch. After probing with a sphincterotome, a small fistula tract was noted between the gastric pouch to the excluded stomach along the staple line (Fig. 1), verified fluoroscopically by wire and contrast injection (Fig. 2). The fistula tract from the gastric pouch to the excluded stomach along the staple line was not closed to allow repeat access if necessary. The patient did well and recovered from the episode.

Post-RYBG anatomy can make ERCP difficult, occasionally requiring deep-enteroscopy techniques or laparoscopic assistance to evaluate and treat biliary disorders. Here we have presented a case of intentionally disrupting the staple line excluding the bypassed stomach in a post-RYGB patient to facilitate therapeutic ERCP.

Competing interests: None

J. M. Levenick, T. B. Gardner
Section of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire, USA

References

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Corresponding author
J. M. Levenick
Section of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
One Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH 03756
USA
Fax: +603-650-5225
John.m.levenick@hitchcock.org

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