Successful endoscopic treatment using biological fibrin glue (Tissucol) for an entero-cutaneous fistula occurring after cephalic duodenopancreatectomy

An entero-cutaneous fistula is an abnormal communication between the small or large bowel and the skin, which leads to external drainage of intestinal contents. It is an important issue in surgical practice, as most cases occur secondary to surgical complications and cause significant mortality and morbidity owing to septic complications and cause significant morbidity [1, 2]. Postoperative fistulas account for 75%–85% of all entero-cutaneous fistulas. One-third of fistulas close spontaneously; the remainder require surgical intervention, with variable levels of success [1, 2]. Recently a few cases of endoscopic treatment with biological fibrin glue resulting in a good outcome have been reported [3–5].

We present the case of a 61-year-old man with an ampulla of the papilla of Vater who had undergone cephalic duodenopancreatectomy and postoperatively developed an entero-cutaneous fistula, which was confirmed by a barium enema. Conservative treatment was started with parenteral nutrition and somatostatin analogues, which led to reduction in the leakage but not to complete resolution. The patient would not accept more surgical intervention, and we therefore opted to treat him endoscopically with biological fibrin glue (Tissucol Duo; Baxter). A colonoscopy was performed, during which a guidewire was introduced through the fistula and visualized in the transverse colon (Fig. 1a). Initially we attempted to close the defect with the over-the-scope clip (OTSC) system (Ovesco, Tübingen, Germany); however, because of the existence of fibrosis around the orifice, this was not successful. We therefore proceeded to debride the orifice and to seal the fistula with Tissucol immediately after the procedure; complete closure of the colocutaneous fistula a year after the procedure.

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