Rendezvous technique: double-balloon endoscopy and SpyGlass direct visualization system in a patient with severe stenosis of a choledochojejunal anastomosis

This is the first report on the successful rendezvous technique of double-balloon endoscopy (DBE) (EI-530B; Fujifilm, Osaka, Japan) combined with the percutaneous SpyGlass® direct visualization system (SDVS) (Boston Scientific Corp., Natick, MA, USA) to treat severe stenosis of a choledochojejunal anastomosis in a patient with pancreaticoduodenectomy. A 71-year-old man with a history of intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm who had undergone pylorus-preserving pancreaticoduodenectomy 6 months previously was admitted for obstructive jaundice and acute cholangitis. He was referred for endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) using a “short” DBE for internalization of biliary drainage. Locating the choledochojejunal anastomosis was difficult, but was successfully achieved by detecting the ulcer-scar-like lesion and a little biliary flow in the underwater observation (Video 1). However, the procedure failed because of a severe stenosis consisting of a long stricture with a small orifice in the choledochojejunal anastomosis, which was denoted a type A2 stricture in the classification of Mönkelüer and Jovanovic [1] and hindered the advancement of several devices. As an alternative, percutaneous transhepatic cholangiodrainage (PTCD) was applied, but this was again precluded by the severe stenosis. As the patient firmly refused to undergo further surgery, DBE-assisted ERCP was reattempted. Indigo carmine was used to mark the location of the choledochojejunal anastomosis and, using a needle knife (KD-V441M; Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan), the membranous anastomotic stenosis was incised (Video 2). When a blind incision was made in the presumed direction of the biliary duct, the cholangiographic image showed leakage of contrast medium into the abdominal cavity (Fig. 1), indicating that the presumed orientation was incorrect. To assure the correct direction of the incision, the SDVS was inserted via the PTCD route and successfully functioned as a visible light guide, facilitating accurate incision into the biliary duct (Video 3). Consequently, guidewires were advanced through the choledochojejunal anastomotic stenosis and dilatation using an 8-mm dilator balloon (QBD-8X3; Cook Medical, Bloomington, IN, USA) was successful, allowing placement of two endoscopic biliary drainage tubes consisting of 5-Fr plastic stents (ZEBD-5-4; Cook Medical) (Video 4).

A severe stenosis in a choledochojejunal anastomotic site is a significant problem.
DBE-assisted ERCP has already gained acceptance for its less invasive technique and high-quality performance [2,3], and its applications in rendezvous techniques have been reported [4,5]. Adding to these, the rendezvous technique in combination with SDVS reported here will expand the possibilities of endoscopic approaches for extremely difficult cases where DBE-assisted ERCP or PTCD fails to offer patients an alternative that will allow them to avoid surgery.

Competing interests: None

Masaaki Shimatani, Makoto Takaoka, Tsukasa Ikeura, Toshiyuki Mitsuyama, Kota Kato, Kazuichi Okazaki

Third Department of Internal Medicine, Kansai Medical University, Osaka, Japan

References

Bibliography
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1365785
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E275–E276
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Masaaki Shimatani, MD
Third Department of Internal Medicine
Kansai Medical University
2-5-1 Shimachi, Hirakata
Osaka 573-1010
Japan
Fax: +81-72-8042524
shimatam@hirakata.kmu.ac.jp