Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) is a highly effective surgical approach for the treatment of morbid obesity [1]. Postsurgical bleeding leading to intraluminal blood clot formation causes gastric outlet obstruction (GOO) at the site of the anastomosis, and is typically managed by laparotomy or surgical revision [1,2]. Gastrojejunal clots causing GOO following laparoscopic RYGB occur in 3%–27% of patients [2]. Endoscopic dilation of gastrojejunal obstruction provides an alternative to surgical revision, but symptomatic relief may require up to three dilations [3,4]. We present a case series of three patients who developed intraluminal blood clots at the gastrojejunal anastomosis (GJA) within 72 hours of robotically assisted RYGB surgery.

The first case was a 63-year-old woman with morbid obesity (body mass index [BMI] 42 kg/m²) who presented with persistent nausea and vomiting for 3 days after an elective RYGB. Routine upper gastrointestinal series revealed no evidence of emptying into the alimentary limb. Subsequent esophagogastroduodenoscopy revealed a large blood clot at the GJA (Fig. 1). After unsuccessful attempts to irrigate the clot, biopsy forceps were utilized to fragment it. In addition, an 8-mm balloon was advanced twice through the clot and inflated to successfully create a lumen (Fig. 2).

The second and third cases were a 53-year-old woman (BMI 43 kg/m²), respectively, who presented with nausea for 3 days after laparoscopic RYGB surgery. Upper gastrointestinal series revealed retention of contrast in the alimentary limb after creation of the gastrojejunostomy (Fig. 3). After unsuccessful attempts to pass the endoscope into the rest of the alimentary limb was possible (Fig. 4).

All three patients experienced relief of GOO without undergoing surgical revision, resulting in a shorter hospital stay and lower morbidity [4,5]. Moreover, these cases show that a single dilation may be sufficient to provide relief.

Competing interests: None

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DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1377544
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E470
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

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