Rendezvous biliary recanalization combining percutaneous and endoscopic techniques using a diathermic dilator for bile duct obstruction

Severe biliary injuries and strictures are intractable complications of hepatectomy. Endoscopic-radiologic biliary recanalization is a minimally invasive technique in patients undergoing hepatectomy. Here, we present a case of successful percutaneous transhepatic and endoscopic biliary rendezvous recanalization using a diathermic dilator for a benign severe postoperative biliary stricture.

A 64-year-old man with biloma and bile duct obstruction after right hepatic trisectomy for liver alveolar echinococcosis, was referred to our department. He had undergone percutaneous transhepatic biloma drainage and percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage (PTBD) to the left dorsal branch 10 days previously. During PTBD, although the guidewire repeatedly entered the biloma, it could not be introduced into the left hepatic bile duct. Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) revealed left hepatic bile duct obstruction (Fig. 1). A 0.025-inch guidewire was successfully advanced across the stricture (Video 1). However, a tapered ERCP catheter or dilator could not be advanced, and this made guidewire manipulation difficult (Fig. 2). A 6-Fr wire-guided diathermic dilator (Cysto-Gastro-Set; Endo-Flex GmbH, Voerde, Germany) with a blended cut mode (Fig. 3; Video 1) was used, and the stricture was successfully dilated (Fig. 4; Video 1). Subsequently, the guidewire was grasped using the Amplatz GooseNeck Snare (10-mm; Covidien Japan, Tokyo, Japan) inserted via the PTBD route and pulled through (Fig. 5; Video 1). Communication between the left hepatic duct and common bile duct was established, and a new PTBD catheter was inserted over the guidewire without any complications (Fig. 6).

Endoscopic-radiologic rendezvous techniques for postoperative bile duct injury have been reported [1]. We recently reported the usefulness of a diathermic dilator for severe biliary strictures [2–5]. As described above, a diathermic dilator is useful for severe postoperative biliary strictures that cannot be dilated with various conventional techniques and for facilitating a rendezvous procedure.

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Hiroshi Kawakami1, Daisuke Abo2, Kazumichi Kawakubo1, Masaki Kuwatan1, Yuki Yoshino2, Yoshimasa Kubota2, Yoko Abe1, Shuhei Kawahata1, Kimitoshi Kubo1, Yusuke Sakuhara2, Hiroki Shirato2, Naoya Sakamoto1

1 Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Sapporo, Japan
2 Department of Radiation Medicine, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Sapporo, Japan

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Corresponding author
Hiroshi Kawakami, MD, PhD
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Kita 15, Nishi 7, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan
Fax: +81-11-7067867
hiropon@med.hokudai.ac.jp

Fig. 4 Radiographic image showing the diathermic dilator being advanced across the biliary obstruction.

Fig. 5 Radiographic image confirming the communication between the left hepatic duct and common bile duct following the endoscopic and percutaneous rendezvous technique.

Fig. 6 Radiographic image showing a percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage catheter being advanced across the biliary obstruction (inset: endoscopic view of a percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage catheter being advanced over the guidewire through the ampulla of Vater to the duodenum).