A 44-year-old woman, with recurrent pancreatic cancer after a Whipple procedure, presented with afferent limb syndrome that manifested as sepsis secondary to cholangitis thought to be due to obstruction of the Roux limb by tumor recurrence. Endoscopy revealed an obstruction of the afferent limb (Fig. 1) that could not be traversed with an endoscope or a guide-wire under fluoroscopy. A dilated loop of small bowel was seen on endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) and was thought to be the obstructed afferent limb (Fig. 2). A 19-gauge needle was inserted, contrast was injected (Fig. 3) and a fistula was created. A 15 mm × 10 mm lumen-apposing stent (Axios; Xlumena, Mountain View, California, USA) was deployed with the distal end in the afferent limb and the proximal end in the stomach (Fig. 4), with the intention of allowing further intervention as needed regarding the biliary tree. A single 7 Fr × 15 cm double-pig-tail catheter was placed through the stent. The patient’s cholangitis resolved and there were no complications. Given the tumor recurrence, the patient decided not to pursue further treatment and was lost to follow-up after choosing hospice care.

Successful endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided transgastric access into the afferent limb, with insertion of 7-Fr plastic stents and with no adverse events, has been described in case reports [4]. In the present case, we chose an Axios stent to take advantage of the intended wall apposition. The use of this stent has been described in pseudocyst drainage, gallbladder drainage, and creation of choledocho-duodenal fistulas [5]. To our knowledge this is the first case of EUS-guided decompression with creation of a gastroenteric fistula using an Axios stent in a patient presenting with afferent limb syndrome.

Given the feasibility, good outcome, and absence of complications in the case we describe, this may be a relatively safe and effective way of dealing with presentations of afferent limb syndrome.

Competing interests: None

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