An alternative treatment for postcholecystectomy Mirizzi’s syndrome: cystic duct balloon dilation

Postcholecystectomy Mirizzi’s syndrome is an extremely rare condition that is caused by a stone in the cystic duct remnant. Remnant cystic duct calculus could be due to either a retained stone or recurrence of a stone [1]. A 68-year-old woman with jaundice, fever, and abdominal pain was admitted to our hospital. She had been diagnosed with type-1 Mirizzi’s syndrome 8 months previously and had undergone laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Laboratory studies at our hospital revealed the following results: leucocyte count 27430, alanine aminotransferase 88U/L, aspartate aminotransferase 173U/L, gamma glutamyl transferase 484U/L, lactate dehydrogenase 624U/L, direct serum bilirubin 5.67 mg/dL.

She underwent endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). During cholangiography, a stone measuring nearly 1 cm was observed at the junction of the common bile duct (CBD) and cystic duct stump, causing compression of the CBD (Fig. 1). The stone could not be extracted with a balloon or captured by a basket despite several attempts at retrieval. The junction of the CBD and cystic duct was therefore dilated using a 12-mm balloon (Fig. 1b), and the stone was removed using an extraction balloon (Fig. 1c).

The removal of the stone was confirmed by cholangiography (Fig. 1d).

This is the first case in the literature describing balloon dilation at the junction of the CBD and cystic duct stump for the treatment of postcholecystectomy Mirizzi’s syndrome. Although ERCP is traditionally used before surgery [2], we consider that this is an effective and safe alternative method for the treatment of postcholecystectomy Mirizzi’s syndrome.

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Bülent Odemis, Erkin Oztaş, Muhammet Yener Akpınar, Serkan Torun, Ufuk Bars Kuzu, Ertugrul Kayacetin

Gastroenterology Department, Türkiye Yüksek İhtisas Training and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey

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Corresponding author
Muhammet Yener Akpınar, MD
Gastroenterology Department Türkiye Yüksek İhtisas Training and Research Hospital Kızlay Street 06100 Sihhiye Ankara Turkey Fax: +90-312-4120 muhammet.yener@gmail.com

Fig. 1 Stone removal in postcholecystectomy Mirizzi’s syndrome. a On balloon-occluded cholangiogram, a stone was observed in the cystic stump (black arrow). b The cystic duct was dilated using a large balloon (white arrows); the balloon’s notch is seen at the level of the narrowed segment of the cystic duct (black arrow). c The stone was removed using an extraction balloon. d Stone removal was confirmed by cholangiography.