Endoscopic removal of buried lumen-apposing metal stents used for cystogastrostomy and cholecystogastrostomy

The Hot AXIOS system is a new device for transgastric or transduodenal endoscopic drainage of a pancreatic pseudocyst or the gallbladder [1,2] using a lumen-apposing metal stent (LAMS) mounted on an electrocautery-enhanced introduction system. The device seems to be relatively safe in expert hands; however, the literature on management of its complications is limited [1–4]. Hereby, we report on two patients with embedded LAMSs, which were endoscopically removed.

Patient 1 was a 68-year-old man with a pseudocyst after acute pancreatitis who underwent successful endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided cystogastrostomy with placement of an AXIOS stent (10×10 mm). Endoscopic removal of the LAMS was planned 3 months later; however, gastroscopy showed tissue overgrowth at the gastric flange of the LAMS making direct removal of the stent with a rat-tooth forceps or snare impossible. To avoid the patient having to undergo surgery, we opted for endoscopic treatment consisting of forced argon plasma coagulation (APC), needle-knife incision, dilation of the stent up to 12 mm (Video 1). After the tissue overgrowth had been sufficiently removed from the gastric flange, it was possible to remove the LAMS with a rat-tooth forceps. No complications subsequently occurred.

Patient 2 was a 59-year-old man with acute acalculous cholecystitis who underwent successful endoscopic gallbladder drainage by EUS-guided cholecystogastrostomy using a 15×10-mm AXIOS stent. LAMS removal was performed after 4 months. At gastroscopy, we found a buried gastric flange of the LAMS (Fig. 1) in the antrum. Because standard stent removal with forceps was impossible, we dilated the LAMS up to 15 mm with a balloon, entered it with the endoscope, and removed the stent inside-out with a rat-tooth forceps. No complications subsequently occurred.

Both these clinical cases show that tissue overgrowth at the gastric side of a LAMS can be a complication after cystogastrostomy and cholecystogastrostomy, making regular stent removal with a forceps impossible [1,3]. In such circumstances, endoscopic techniques as described above can be considered as rescue therapy.

Competing interests: Frank P. Vleggaar is a consultant for Boston Scientific.

References

Bibliography
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0042-107073
Endoscopy 2016; 48: E179
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
T. C. Seerden, MD
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Amphia Hospital
Molengracht 21
4818 CK Breda
The Netherlands
tseerden@amphia.nl

Tom C. Seerden, Frank P. Vleggaar
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Amphia Hospital
Breda, The Netherlands
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
University Medical Center Utrecht
Utrecht, The Netherlands