Endoscopic ultrasound-guided pancreatic duct drainage: technical approaches to a challenging procedure

Endoscopic ultrasound-guided pancreatic duct drainage (EUS-PDD) is an effective treatment modality for pancreatic pathologies, including chronic pancreatitis, major or minor papilla inaccessible via endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, and postsurgical pancreaticoenterostomy strictures [1, 2]. Technically, however, EUS-PDD can be very difficult and is potentially associated with significant complications [3]. The following series of videos aims to improve the understanding and performance of EUS-PDD by describing the three approaches to this challenging procedure (Video 1): the transluminal stenting, anterograde drainage, and rendezvous method. To our knowledge, this is the first published video series focused on the different methods and steps of this intricate procedure.

Case 1 describes a 55-year-old man with a pancreaticoenterostomy stricture following Whipple surgery. It showcases the transluminal approach, where a stent is placed upstream from the stricture forming a pancreaticogastrostomy (Video 2). The patient’s symptoms improved dramatically following the procedure.

Case 2 is another example of the transluminal approach; however, this time it demonstrates the creation of a pancreaticoduodenostomy with the insertion of a plastic pigtail pancreatic stent was inserted, forming a pancreaticogastrostomy.
a plastic stent in a patient with pancreatic divisum and chronic pancreatitis (Video 3).

Case 3 shows anterograde drainage, where a stent is inserted downstream through a pancreaticoenterostomy stricture in order to manage a patient with recurrent pancreatitis following pancreaticoduodenectomy (Video 4). The patient responded well to the treatment with no recurrence of pancreatitis at the last follow-up.

Case 4 shows the rendezvous technique where EUS-assisted pancreatic access is performed in order to guide subsequent endoscopic retrograde pancreatography in a patient with recurrent alcohol pancreatitis (Video 5). The patient was free from pain at the 1-year post-procedure follow-up appointment.

EUS-PDD is an important minimally invasive modality in the management of several pancreatic pathologies. We have described the different approaches and steps needed to perform this intricate procedure in the hope of improving the understanding of the technique and the subtle nuances involved.

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Yen-I Chen¹, Payal Saxena², Saowanee Ngamruengphong¹, Yamile Haito-Chavez¹, Majidah Bukhari¹, Everson Artifon³, Mouen A. Khashab¹

¹ Department of Medicine and Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, Maryland, United States
² Department of Medicine and Division of Gastroenterology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, New South Wales, Australia
³ GI Endoscopy, Ana Costa Hospital, Santos, Brazil

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**Corresponding author**

Mouen A. Khashab, MD
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Johns Hopkins Hospital
1800 Orleans Street, Suite 71258
Baltimore, MD 21287
United States
Fax: +1-410-955-3453
mkhasha1@jhmi.edu