Use of a Roth Net Platinum Universal Retriever for the endoscopic management of a large symptomatic gallstone causing Bouveret’s syndrome

A 65-year-old woman, who was diagnosed with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, underwent a procedure for pancreatic duct stenting. She presented with multiple episodes of vomiting associated with abdominal pain after meals, with no overt gastrointestinal bleed or jaundice. Physical examination revealed a malnourished, dehydrated patient with a distended upper abdomen without peritoneal signs. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) imaging performed immediately after hydration to look for extension of portosystemic thrombus revealed a fistulous communication between the body of the gallbladder and the duodenal bulb (Video 1). A calculus, measuring 3.7 × 2.2 cm (black arrow), was seen lodged at the junction of the first and second parts of the duodenum, causing gastric outlet obstruction (dotted white arrow) suggestive of cholecystoduodenal fistula and Bouveret’s syndrome.

Gastroendoscopy revealed a large pigmented stone lodged in the duodenal bulb (Fig. 1). The stone was successfully removed endoscopically (Video 3) using a Roth Net Platinum Universal Retriever (net size 4 × 5.5 cm, diameter 2.5 mm; US Endoscopy, Mentor, Ohio, USA). Less than 5% of intestinal obstruction is caused by gallstone ileus and <4% of those are due to Bouveret’s syndrome, which is most commonly seen in frail women [2]. The Rigler triad (small bowel obstruction, pneumonia, and ectopic gallstone) is pathognomonic for this syndrome [3], but is not seen in 40% cases, even on computed tomography. Surgery (enterolithotomy, gastrostomy with or without cholecystectomy, and fistula repair) is the mainstay of treatment, but in poor surgical candidates such as our patient (elderly, malnutrition, portal hypertension with biliary system collaterals), endoscopic therapies such as net/basket extraction, mechanical, electrohydraulic or intracorporeal laser lithotripsy, or a combination of these, can be used, but the success rate is only 9% [4].

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