A forward-pulling technique for complicated Trapezoid basket impaction during retrieval of common bile duct stones

Although basket impaction rarely occurs during retrieval of common bile duct stones, it is a potentially serious event [1]. The Trapezoid RX wire-guided retrieval basket (Boston Scientific Corp., Marlborough, Massachusetts, USA) has an emergency release feature, whereby the tip is designed to disengage, thereby facilitating basket removal and reducing the risk of impaction [2]. However, we encountered a rare case of trapezoid basket impaction that was complicated by difficulties in detaching the outer sheath from the basket wires.

A man in his 50s was admitted with multiple common bile duct stones (Fig. 1). After endoscopic sphincterotomy and endoscopic papillary large-balloon dilation, mechanical lithotripsy was attempted using a Trapezoid basket. However, basket impaction occurred because the stone was too hard and the tip of the Trapezoid failed to disengage.

We attempted to remove the duodenscopic and outer sheath simultaneously, but were unable to remove the outer sheath at the stomach because it was entwined with the inner basket wires. As a result, only the duodenoscope was removed, following which a forward-viewing endoscope was inserted along the basket catheter. Using rat-tooth forceps, we grasped, twisted, and pulled the basket wires into the working channel of the scope. Next, we simultaneously pushed the scope to the anal side, while the outer sheath was simultaneously pulled to the oral side (arrows). This successfully dissociated the outer sheath from the basket wires (arrow), so that it could be removed.

Therefore, even when using a Trapezoid retrieval basket, basket impaction can occur and an emergency mechanical lithotriptor handle should be available on standby. Additionally, entanglement between the outer sheath and the inner basket wires can occur because the outer sheath of the Trapezoid is thinner than some other mechanical lithotriptors. The technique described here may be useful in such cases.

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Tadahisa Inoue, Kiyoaki Ito, Norimitsu Ishii, Yuji Kobayashi, Masashi Yoneda
Department of Gastroenterology, Aichi Medical University School of Medicine, Nagakute, Japan
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Corresponding author

Tadahisa Inoue, MD
Department of Gastroenterology
Aichi Medical University School of Medicine
1-1 Yazakokarimata, Nagakute
Aichi 480-1195
Japan
Fax: +81-561-633208
tinoue-tag@umin.ac.jp

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