Targeting neoplasia using volumetric laser endomicroscopy with laser marking

Volumetric laser endomicroscopy (VLE) is a recent advanced imaging technology that allows high resolution microstructure imaging of the esophagus and gastric cardia; it has been increasingly used in Europe and the USA [1−3]. The system has been recently upgraded to include a laser marking device that places cautery marks on the mucosa to provide targets for histology. We report a case of an incidental finding of focal high grade dysplasia targeted using this new technology. A 69-year-old man was referred for advanced imaging and removal of a gastroesophageal junction polyp. The polyp was visualized, using high definition resolution white-light endoscopy (HDR-WLE), on the cardia side of the gastroesophageal junction (▶ Fig. 1; ▶ Video 1). It was a mobile pedunculated polyp with its base at the gastric cardia (Paris classification 0−1p).

It is our practice to use VLE for high resolution imaging of mucosal pathology in the esophagus and gastroesophageal junction. We used a 20-mm balloon containing the VLE probe (▶Fig. 2). VLE showed that the polyp of interest did not contain any of the VLE characteristics that have been associated with neoplasia [4, 5]. No atypical glands or abnormal signal intensity were seen. There was however an area at the gastroesophageal junction just proximal to the polyp that contained a cluster of atypical glands that were suspicious for neoplasia (▶Fig. 3). This area appeared normal on HDR-WLE and narrow-band imaging (NBI) so laser marks were placed at the site to mark it for targeting (▶Fig. 4).

Endoscopic mucosal resection of the polyp and the VLE-targeted area was performed. Histology of the polyp showed an inflammatory polyp and the VLE-targeted area was consistent with focal high grade dysplasia (▶Fig. 5; ▶ Video 1).

This case demonstrates the capability of VLE to obtain high resolution microstructure imaging of the esophagus and gastroesophageal junction that can aid in the diagnosis of neoplasia.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AB_2AC_3AC

Competing interests

None

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▶Fig. 1 Endoscopic view using high definition resolution white-light endoscopy showing the polyp at the gastroesophageal junction and adjacent normal-looking areas.

▶Fig. 2 The balloon containing the volumetric laser endomicroscopy (VLE) probe scanning the gastroesophageal junction and distal esophagus.

▶ Video 1: Video showing volumetric laser endomicroscopy (VLE) with laser marking to target an area of dysplasia adjacent to a polyp at the gastroesophageal junction.

▶Video 1: Video showing volumetric laser endomicroscopy (VLE) with laser marking to target an area of dysplasia adjacent to a polyp at the gastroesophageal junction.
References


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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0042-122144
Endoscopy 2017; 49: E54–E55
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X