Balloon enteroscopy-assisted biliary drainage using a diathermic dilator followed by placement of a novel ultra-slim metallic stent

Endoscopic management of malignant biliary stricture after hepaticojejunostomy is challenging. Although balloon enteroscopy-assisted endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) has been developed, dedicated devices are still insufficient. We present a case of successful enteroscopic dilation using a wire-guided diathermic dilator [1–5], and placement of a novel, ultra-slim, uncovered, self-expandable, metallic stent (USEMS) for the treatment of a severe malignant stricture of the perihilar bile duct after hepaticojejunostomy.

A 52-year-old man with obstructive jaundice was referred to our department. He had undergone pancreaticoduodenectomy with hepaticojejunostomy for pancreatic head cancer 27 months earlier. He had received 6 months of chemotherapy for multiple liver metastases, but this treatment was suspended because of multiple liver abscesses, which developed 1 month before we saw him.

Computed tomography revealed intrahepatic bile duct dilatation, perihilar biliary mass, and ascites. Double-balloon enteroscopy (EI-530B; Fujifilm Corp., Tokyo, Japan) was selected for biliary drainage. Double-balloon enteroscopy showed jejunal invasion of recurrent tumor involving the hepaticojejunostomy stricture (Fig. 1a, b). A tapered ERCP catheter and a 0.025-inch guidewire were passed through the stricture of the hepaticojejunostomy (Fig. 1a, b). ERCP showed perihilar biliary stricture (Fig. 2a, Video 1), which could not be passed by the tapered ERCP catheter (Video 1).

The severe stricture was dilated successfully with a wire-guided diathermic dilator (Cysto-Gastro-Set, 6 Fr, length 180 cm; Endo-Flex, Voerde, Germany) (Fig. 2b, Video 1). Total dilation time was 3 seconds for the hepaticojejunostomy and 13 seconds for the perihilar biliary stricture, respectively. A slim USEMS (Zilver 635, 6.0 Fr delivery system, 10 mm diameter, 200 cm long; Cook Japan, Tokyo, Japan) failed to pass the stricture. However, a novel ultra-slim USEMS (BileRush Selective, 5.7 Fr delivery system, 10 mm diameter, 185 cm long; Piolax Medical Devices, Kanagawa, Japan) was successfully deployed, followed by placement of an additional USEMS, in a stent-in-stent fashion, without any complications (Fig. 3, Fig. 4, Video 1).

In summary, using balloon enteroscopy, a wire-guided diathermic dilator and novel ultra-slim USEMS were useful in facilitating dilation and stenting for the treatment of severe malignant anastomotic and biliary strictures in a patient with altered anatomy.

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Competing interests

Dr. Kawakami has collaborated with Piolax Medical Devices on the development of the BileRush Selective, and is a consultant and gives lectures for the company.

The Authors

Hiroshi Kawakami1,2, Yoshimasa Kubota1,2, Shinya Ashizuka2,3, Masaru Haraguchi2,3, Ichiro Sannomiya2,3

1 Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Miyazaki, Miyazaki, Japan
2 Center for Digestive Disease, University of Miyazaki Hospital, Miyazaki, Japan
3 Circulatory and Body Fluid Regulation, Faculty of Medicine, University of Miyazaki, Miyazaki, Japan

Corresponding author

Hiroshi Kawakami, MD, PhD
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Miyazaki, Center for Digestive Disease, University of Miyazaki Hospital, 5200, Kihara, Kiyotake Miyazaki 889-1692, Japan
Fax: +81-985-859802
hiropon@med.miyazaki-u.ac.jp
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