Early primary nonampullary duodenal carcinoma is an extremely rare disease. We observed the features of depressed-type early duodenal carcinoma by enhanced magnification endoscopy (EME). A 67-year-old woman underwent gastrointestinal endoscopy because of epigastralgia. Endoscopy showed a depressed lesion, 3–5 mm in diameter, in the descending duodenum on the opposite side of the ampulla of Vater (Figure 1). Chromoendoscopy with 0.2% indigo carmine revealed a clear demarcation of this lesion and surrounding villi (Figure 2). Conventional magnification endoscopy revealed microvessels in the depression (Figure 3). EME with 1.5% acetic acid clearly revealed an irregular microstructure in the depressed lesion and surrounding normal villi (Figure 4 and Figure 5). Histological analysis of the biopsy specimen revealed an adenocarcinoma of duodenum. We performed an endoscopic mucosectomy, and the lesion was completely resected without complication.

A cross section of the tumor specimen was identified as a depressed type (Figure 6), and the margins were carcinoma free. Histopathologically, the lesion was diagnosed as a well-differentiated adenocarcinoma limited to the mucosa (Figure 6).

Wakabayashi et al. reported that magnifying endoscopy with methylene blue staining seemed to be useful in the diagnosis of duodenal cancer [1]. Friedrich-Rust et al. reported an early duodenal carcinoma identified using magnification

Figure 1  Endoscopy showed a depressed-type tumor in the descending duodenum.

Figure 2  Chromoendoscopy with 0.2% indigo carmine more clearly revealed demarcation of this lesion and surrounding villi.

Figure 3  Conventional magnification endoscopy revealed irregular microvessels in the smooth depression.

Figure 4  Enhanced magnification endoscopy (with 1.5% acetic acid) revealed an irregular fine microstructure in the depressed lesion.

Figure 5  Enhanced magnification endoscopy (with 1.5% acetic acid) showed normal villi surrounding the depressed lesion.

Figure 6  Microscopic image of mucosectomy specimen shows depressed-type well-differentiated adenocarcinoma limited to the mucosa (H & E, ×40).
endoscopy to demarcate and detect neoplastic change in the architecture of the intestinal villi [2].

EME is a useful method for observing mucosal surface microstructures in Barrett’s esophagus [3, 4] and stomach [5]. However, there have been no reports on the features of the duodenal carcinoma using EME. In the case report discussed here, EME was useful for observing the fine surface structure of the lesion. Indeed we found that there was a correlation between the irregular microstructure and the pathological features of the lesion. EME may be useful for defining the clinicopathologic features of early duodenal carcinoma.

References