The prototype of the single-balloon enteroscopy system (Olympus Medical Systems Europa GmbH, Hamburg, Germany; Fig. 1) consists of a high-resolution endoscope (XSIF-Q160Y) with a working length of 200 cm, and an outer diameter of 9.2 mm, and a flexible overtube (XST-BY3A; Fig. 2) with a working length of 132 cm and an outer diameter of 13.2 mm. A latex-free balloon is only attached at the tip of the single-use silicon overtube, and is inflated and deflated with air from a pressure-controlled pump system (Olympus balloon control unit MAJ-1440).

The two options for threading the overtube into the small bowel can be combined. In comparison with enteroscopy using the double-balloon technique, this newly developed single-balloon enteroscopy seems to be easier to perform and saves time.

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