Endoscopic reversal of vertical banded gastroplasty: a novel use of electroincision

► **Fig. 1** Computed tomography demonstrated postoperative changes to the gastroesophageal junction and a hiatal hernia, but no obstruction.

Vertical banded gastroplasty (VBG) was introduced in 1982 as a restrictive form of weight loss surgery through the creation of a pouch using a vertical staple line and outlet restriction with a silastic band [1]. However, the popularity of VBG has waned due to high adverse event rates and the need for surgical revision [2]. We present the case of an endoscopic reversal of a VBG using electroincision (► **Video 1**).

A 49-year-old woman with a history of VBG presented with nausea, episodic vomiting, and dysphagia. A computed tomography scan revealed no signs of obstruction (► **Fig. 1**). Upper endoscopy demonstrated a large gastrogastroic fistula at the staple line with the silastic band eroding into the lumen (► **Fig. 2**). Between the gastrogastroic fistula and the eroded band, there was a septum of gastric tissue. The tissue pedicles holding the silastic band were incised using an endoscopic submucosal dissection knife, and the band was removed (► **Fig. 3a**). The decision was made to reverse the VBG given the patient's symptoms and that the size of the gastrogastroic fistula precluded successful endoscopic closure. The gastric septum was then divided (► **Fig. 3b**). Hemoclips were placed in areas of mild bleeding. Repeat endoscopic examination 2 months later revealed a healed resection

► **Video 1** Endoscopic reversal of a vertical banded gastroplasty using electroincision.

► **Fig. 2** Endoscopic findings. **a** Endoscopy revealed an eroded silastic band on the right and a gastrogastroic fistula on the left. **b** Diagram of the endoscopic findings in relationship to surgical anatomy.

site with complete reversal of her prior VBG anatomy (► **Fig. 4**). The patient had complete resolution of all symptoms. VBGs are associated with high rates of long-term failure due to band erosions, gastric outlet stenosis, and inadequate weight loss [3]. Specifically, band erosions may occur after 1%–3% of VBGs [4]. Methods for removal of eroded bands include the use of Nd:YAG laser, electroincision, and electrosurgical scissors [5]. In our case, we used electroinci-

sion to remove the eroded band and also reverse the VBG, resulting in durable symptom control. In conclusion, endoscopic reversal of VBG can be considered in patients with similar presentations.

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Competing interests

Ryan Law: Olympus America-Consultant.

► **Fig. 3** Endoscopic treatment using an electroincision knife. **a** The eroded silastic band was removed by excising the supporting tissue pedicles using an electroincision knife. **b** Division of the gastrogastic fistula using an electroincision knife.

► **Fig. 4** Repeat endoscopy at 2 months post-procedure demonstrated reversed vertical banded gastroplasty anatomy.

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Bibliography

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