Underwater endoscopic mucosal resection for en bloc resection of a neuroendocrine tumor in the duodenal bulb

► **Fig. 1** A 13-mm ulcerated subepithelial lesion on the superior part of the duodenal bulb. Endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration showed a neuroendocrine tumor confined to the submucosal layer.

► **Video 1** En bloc underwater endoscopic mucosal resection of a neuroendocrine tumor in the duodenal bulb.

Duodenal neuroendocrine neoplasms (d-NENs) may be sporadic or associated with multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 [1, 2]. Classification, based on morphology and proliferation rate, includes well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors (NETs; G1–G3) and poorly differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas (G3).

Endoscopic resection is indicated in non-ampullary d-NENs ≤ 10 mm that are confined to the submucosa and without lymph node or distant metastasis, and could be considered in selected cases for lesions 10–19 mm [2, 3].

Underwater endoscopic mucosal resection (UEMR) without submucosal injection was described by Binmoeller for colorectal polyps and duodenal adenomas [4, 5]. We present the case of a 64-year-old man with a 13-mm NET (► **Fig. 1**), confined to the submucosal layer in the duodenal bulb, after endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration. The lesion was tattooed and referred for surgical and oncological evaluation. There were no signs of lymph node metastasis on computed tomography. After multidisciplinary team discussion, endoscopic resection was planned.

► **Fig. 2** The mucosal defect after underwater endoscopic mucosal resection. Intact muscularis propria can be seen, as well as some hypertrophic Brunner glands on the margin.

Upper endoscopy was performed under propofol sedation using a gastroscope (EG-760Z; Fujifilm, Tokyo, Japan). An aspiration test was performed with a band ligator cap (Captivator EMR; Boston Scientific, Marlborough, Massachusetts, USA) but the lesion did not enter the cap. UEMR was then attempted using a short straight cap (► **Video 1**). Gas was aspirated and the duodenal bulb was filled with sterile water. The lesion was easily snared underwater using a rounded

15-mm snare (Captivator II; Boston Scientific) and resected using Endocut Q effect 2 (VIO 300, ERBE Elektromedizin, Tübingen, Germany). The specimen (13 × 10 × 9 mm) was retrieved using the same snare, and the mucosal defect was clipped (► **Fig. 2**, ► **Video 1**). There were no complications, and the asymptomatic patient was discharged after 24 hours. Final histology showed a 10-mm well-differentiated G1 NET with free margins.

UEMR might be an adequate technique for en bloc resection of 10-mm d-NENs and an alternative to ligation-assisted EMR or endoscopic submucosal dissection.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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