#### E-Videos

Laparoscopic common bile duct exploration through the cystic duct using flexible cholangioscopy combined with cholecystectomy for managing cholecysto-choledocholithiasis





**Fig.1** Laparoscopic image of common bile duct (CBD) exploration through the cystic duct. **a** A 5-mm incision was created on the cystic duct. **b** The cholangioscope was inserted into the cystic duct through the trocar with the help of the laparoscope.



▶ Fig.2 Cholangioscopy image of common bile duct exploration through the cystic duct. a Multiple CBD stones were found. b CBD stones were extracted using a basket.

Common bile duct (CBD) stones are present in approximately 3% to 16% patients with symptomatic gallstones [1– 3]. Laparoscopic common bile duct exploration (LCBDE) and laparoscopic cholecystectomy (LC) could treat cholecysto-choledocholithiasis in one session. However, some drawbacks including the unsatisfactory controllability of the surgical choledochoscope, postoperative bile leak, and the use of the T-tube have hindered the further development of LCBDE+LC. To solve these problems, we introduced LCBDE through the cystic duct using a more flexible cholangioscope combined with cholecystectomy for cholecysto-choledocholithiasis.

A 59-year-old man with abdominal pain underwent computed tomography (CT) examination and the result showed cholecysto-choledocholithiasis. He chose LCBDE+LC to treat the gallstones and CBD stones in one session. During this procedure, we used a novel cholangioscope with flexible controllability, which was initially designed as a single-operator peroral cholangioscopy system [4].

First the gallbladder, cystic duct, and cystic artery were dissociated under lapa-roscopy, and the cystic artery was cut off



► **Fig. 3** CBD stone was removed from the cystic duct under laparoscopy.

using the electrocoagulation function. Then a 5-mm incision was created on the cystic duct (▶ Fig.1a). The cholangioscope was inserted into the cystic duct through the trocar with the help of the laparoscope (▶ Fig.1b). Multiple CBD stones were found and extracted using a basket under cholangioscopy in multiple sessions (▶ Fig.2, ▶ Fig.3). No residual stones were found under cholangioscopy and cholangiography (▶ Fig.4). Finally, the cystic duct was clamped, and the gallbladder was removed (▶ Fig.5, ▶ Video 1). The patient's recovery was smooth without any adverse events.

Of note, this is the first experience of this technique in our team, and we hope that patients with cholecysto-choledocho-



**Fig.4** No residual stones were found under cholangiography.

lithiasis can benefit from this procedure if conditions allow.

The advantages of this technique over traditional LCBDE + LC include better controllability, enabling complete clearance of CBD stones, and a smaller incision in the cystic duct instead of the CBD, avoiding the placement of a T-tube and postoperative bile leak.

Endoscopy\_UCTN\_Code\_TTT\_1AR\_2AH

#### Funding

National Key Research and Development Program of China 2022YFC2503600

### **Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.



**Fig. 5** The cystic duct was clamped, and the gallbladder was removed.





**Video 1** Laparoscopic common bile duct exploration through the cystic duct using flexible cholangioscopy combined with cholecystectomy.

## The authors

#### Wengang Zhang<sup>1‡</sup>, Hui Ding<sup>2‡</sup>, Zhenjuan Li<sup>2</sup>, Enqiang Linghu<sup>1</sup>

- 1 Department of Gastroenterology, The First Medical Center of Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, China
- 2 Department of Gastroenterology, Henan Provincial People's Hospital, Zhengzhou, Henan, China

## Corresponding author

#### Engiang Linghu, MD

Department of Gastroenterology, The First Medical Center of Chinese PLA General Hospital, 28 Fuxing Road, Haidian District, Beijing, 100853, China linghuenqiang@vip.sina.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup> Co-first authors

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Endoscopy 2023; 55: E659–E661 DOI 10.1055/a-2067-4587 ISSN 0013-726X © 2023. The Author(s).

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