Endoscopic removal of a migrated stent in the gallbladder

Fig. 1 Abdominal computed tomography (CT) image showing evidence of acute cholecystitis.

Fig. 2 The incorrectly positioned bilateral pig-tail plastic stent.

Fig. 3 Fluoroscopic view showing an unsuccessful attempt being made to retrieve the stent using a basket.

Fig. 4 A polypectomy snare consisting of a single looped wire that can be used to easily grip the tip of the stent.

An 84-year old man was admitted to our hospital with fever and abdominal pain. An abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan revealed evidence of acute cholecystitis (● Fig. 1). Percutaneous transhepatic gallbladder drainage was performed and his symptoms improved; however, cholecystectomy could not be performed because the patient's heart function was too poor.

To prevent him developing recurrent cholecystitis, we tried to perform endoscopic transpapillary gallbladder stenting [1–3], but owing to a crooked cystic duct, a bilateral pig-tail plastic stent (6Fr, 10cm) was placed in an incorrect position (● Fig. 2). We initially tried to retrieve the migrated stent using several types of basket; however, all of these attempts failed (● Fig. 3). Finally, we tried to move the stent using a polypectomy snare, which consists of a single looped wire that can easily grip the tip of the stent (● Fig. 4). Using this snare, we succeeded in smoothly placing the stent in the correct position (● Fig. 5 and ● Fig. 6).

Stent migration into the gallbladder is a rare but important condition for endoscopists.

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Tomonori Ida¹, Masahiko Inamori^{2,3}, Jun Hamanaka¹, Hideyuki Chiba¹, Akihiko Kusakabe², Taiki Morohashi¹, Atsushi Nakajima², Shin Maeda², Toru Goto¹

¹ Department of Gastroenterology, Omori Red Cross Hospital, Tokyo, Japan

² Gastroenterology Division, Yokohama City University Hospital, Yokohama, Japan

³ Office of Postgraduate Medical Education, Yokohama City University Hospital, Yokohama, Japan

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Fig. 5 Fluoroscopic views showing the stent being successfully moved into the correct position.

Fig. 6 Endoscopic view of the papilla of Vater and one end of the stent after it had been successfully repositioned.

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Corresponding author

Masahiko Inamori, MD
 Yokohama City University Hospital,
 Gastroenterology Division
 3-9, Fuku-ura, Kanazawaku
 Yokohama
 Kanagawa 236-0004
 Japan
 Fax: +81-45-7843546
inamorim@med.yokohama-cu.ac.jp