Use of a transparent cap for endoscopic drainage of a pancreatic pseudocyst

The usefulness of a transparent endoscope cap in difficult cases has been described [1]. The use of this device to facilitate endoscopic access to a pancreatic pseudocyst prior to drainage has not been reported before.

We report the case of a 47-year-old man with abdominal pain 3 months after acute biliary pancreatitis. CT scan showed a 12-cm pseudocyst in the pancreatic body and in close contact (< 1 cm) with the posterior gastric wall with no collateral veins. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) showed typical pseudocyst findings and the optimal puncturing site was marked with a forceps. Using a therapeutic duodenoscope, a small incision (triple-lumen needle knife) was made, but severe bleeding occurred (► Fig. 1). Adrenaline 1:10 000 (5 ml) was injected without success. We changed to a therapeutic gastroscope equipped with a transparent cap. This gave a better view of the active bleeding, and after application of two hemoclips the bleeding stopped (► Fig. 2). Noticing the appropriate and stable position obtained with the transparent cap against the posterior gastric wall, we decided to continue. Two centimeters from the hemoclips another small incision was made with a triple-lumen needle knife, and using this catheter the gastric wall was punctured (► Fig. 3), leading the guide wire into the pseudocyst (► Fig. 4). Frequently, the best gastric compression site is in a difficult position for endoscopic drainage, and a freehand incision or puncturing technique may misdirect placement of the guide wire. However, we found that using the transparent cap a stable endoscopic position can be obtained and cutting and/or puncturing can be carried out with more confidence. After leading the guide wire into the cyst we changed to a duodenoscope; tract dilatation was carried out and two 10-Fr double pigtail stents were inserted. We consider that the transparent cap can be a very useful accessory to maintain the position of the endoscope in cases of difficult pancreatic pseudocyst access.

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Fig. 1 Active bleeding after needle knife incision.

Fig. 2 Successful treatment of bleeding with hemoclip.

Fig. 3 Cutting and puncturing the posterior gastric wall with a triple-lumen needle knife.

Fig. 4 Transparent cap and guide wire in the pseudocyst.

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