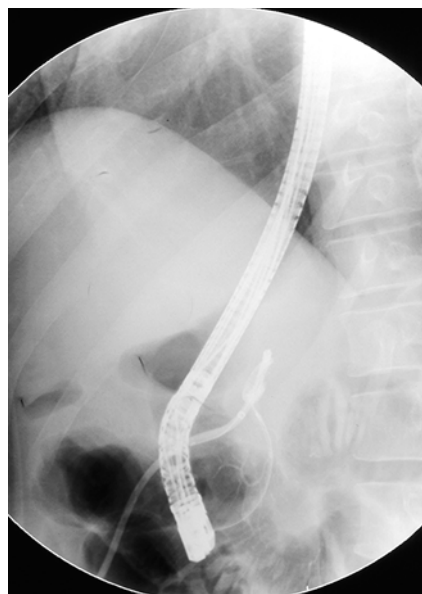


Disconnected pancreatic duct syndrome – Wait! Why not try one more time?

A 42-year-old man with a history of necrotizing pancreatitis complicated by pancreatic fluid collections (PFCs) who underwent percutaneous drainage for 4



► **Fig. 1** Image from an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography performed at another endoscopy center suggesting there was complete main pancreatic duct disruption.

months but still had a persistent external fistula with high amylase activity in the drainage fluid was referred. A previous endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) in another endoscopy center had suggested complete main pancreatic duct (MPD) disruption (► **Fig. 1**). Contrast injection through the drainage catheter showed no opacification of the proximal MPD (► **Fig. 2 a**). During a second ERCP, carried out in our endoscopy center, contrast injection through the major duodenal papilla also demonstrated complete cutoff of the proximal MPD and no opacification of the distal MPD (► **Fig. 2 b**). Therefore, the diagnosis of complete MPD disruption was made and normally surgical treatment would have been considered.

Fortunately, in this case, after several attempts by the endoscopist, the disruption site was traversed with a guidewire, and the route from the MPD complete cutoff to the site of the PFCs was not opacified by any contrast. A pancreatic stent was placed to drain the PFCs (► **Fig. 2 c** and ► **Fig. 3**; ► **Video 1**) and immediately there was cessation of fluid drainage from the percutaneous drainage catheter. The patient had an uneventful recovery

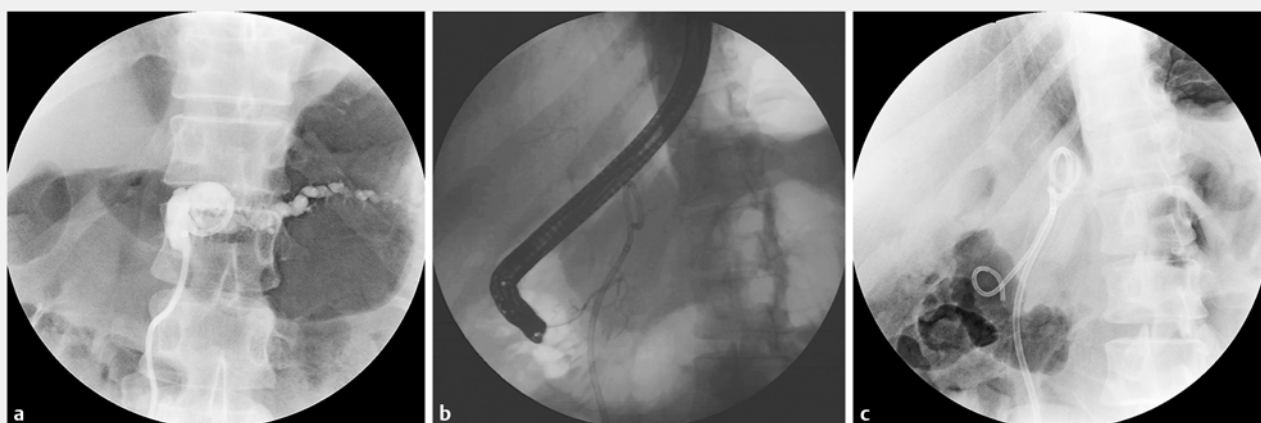
and was discharged 1 day later, with surgery having been avoided.

The diagnosis of disconnected pancreatic duct syndrome (DPDS) is usually confirmed on ERCP if there is extravasation of injected contrast from the MPD without filling of the distal MPD [1]. Once the diagnosis of complete MPD disruption has been made, it is often treated by surgery [2], while endotherapy is effective for partial pancreatic ductal disruption [3]. However, we have shown in this case, where both percutaneous and endoscopic contrast injection had demonstrated complete cutoff of the pancreatic duct, that there is still a possibility that the guidewire may cross the site of the disruption and that a stent can be placed to drain the pancreatic juice or PFC. But only if we try!

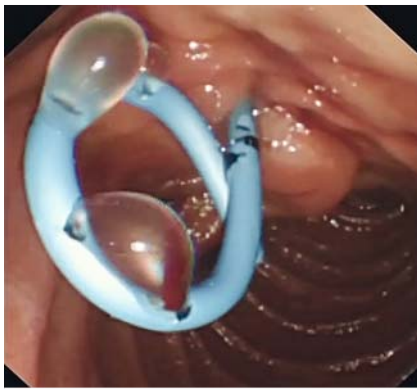
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Acknowledgment

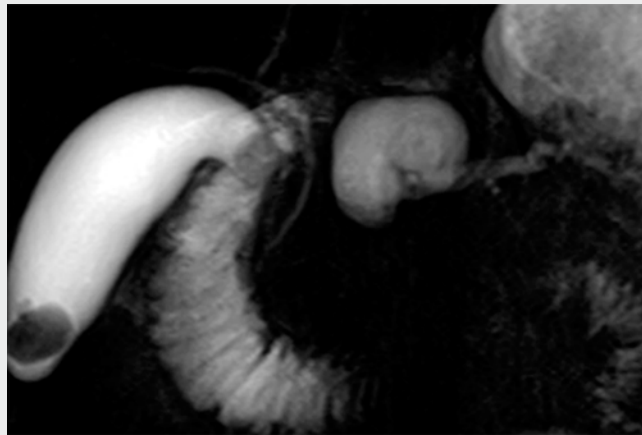
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► **Fig. 2** Radiographic images showing: **a** no opacification of the proximal main pancreatic duct (MPD) on contrast injection through the drainage catheter; **b** complete cutoff of the proximal MPD and no opacification of the distal MPD on contrast injection through the major duodenal papilla; **c** a pancreatic stent placed to drain the pancreatic fluid collections.



► **Fig. 3** Endoscopic image showing pancreatic juice draining through the stent.



► **Video 1** Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography treatment of disconnected pancreatic duct syndrome.

Competing interests

None

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