

A large perforation in the piriform sinus during Zenker diverticulotomy effectively closed with “clips-and-rubber band” technique

Endoscopic treatment of Zenker’s diverticulum by diverticulotomy consists of cutting the septum between the esophageal lumen and the diverticulum, thus restoring bolus transit. This technique is being increasingly preferred to surgical treatment as it is safe and minimizes the in-hospital stay, especially in patients with important co-morbidities [1–2]. Nevertheless, endoscopic diverticulotomy carries a risk of perforation and delayed bleeding [1].

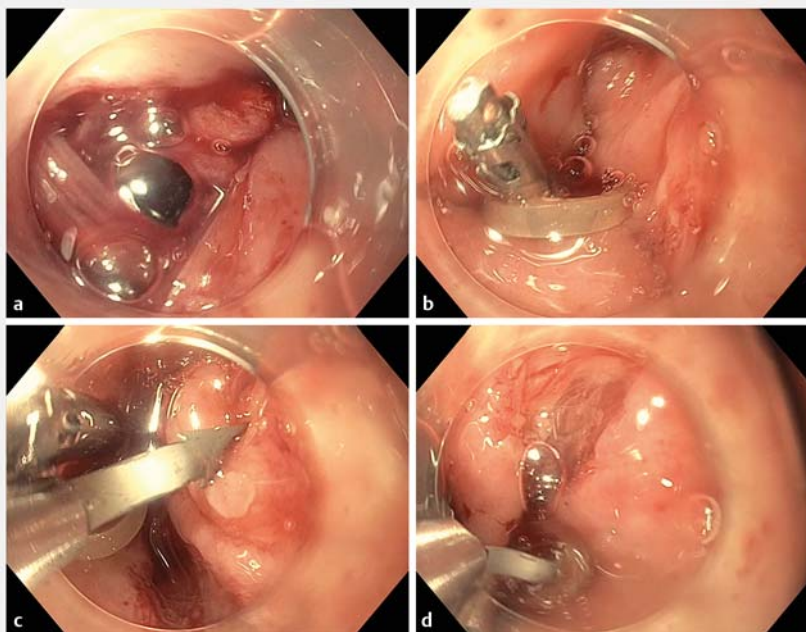
We report here the case of a 94-year-old woman referred for endoscopic treatment of a Zenker’s diverticulum causing dysphagia for solids and liquids. We first introduced the diverticuloscope (Cook Medical, Limerick, Ireland) but the progression was difficult and the patient experienced a cough during introduction. We removed the diverticuloscope and noticed a large transmural perforation of the piriform sinus (► Fig. 1 a, ► Fig. 2 a). However, before closing the perforation, we decided to perform the diverticulotomy, without the diverticuloscope, using the window technique [2].

After this, we tried to close the perforation but usual clipping appeared impossible, as it was difficult to catch the two edges of the defect. Therefore, as previously described for closure of the resected area after endoscopic mucosal resection [3], we placed the first clip with a rubber band attached on the lower edge of the perforation by folding the nonperforated mucosa (► Fig. 1 b, ► Fig. 2 b). Then, a second clip grasped the rubber band and was attached on the upper edge of the perforation (► Fig. 1 c, ► Fig. 2 c). Owing to the elastic force, the margins of the defect were stretched and approached each other, and the entire defect was closed with two additional clips (► Fig. 1 d, ► Fig. 2 d, ► Video 1).

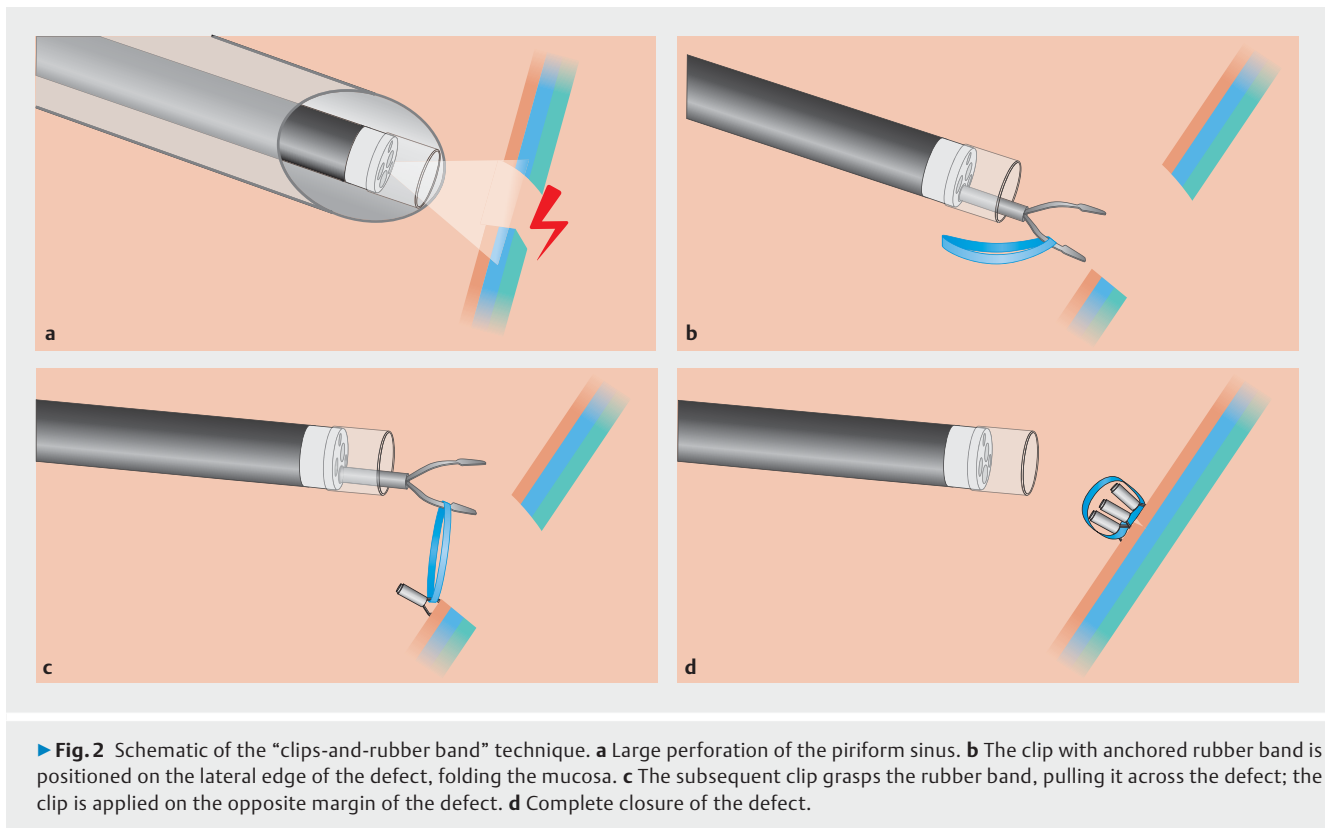
After 3 days of a liquid diet, the patient resumed normal feeding and was discharged on Day 7. At 1 month follow-up



► Video 1 Effective closure of a large perforation of the piriform sinus using the “clips-and-rubber band” technique.”



► Fig. 1 Endoscopic view of the “clips-and-rubber band” technique to close a large perforation of the piriform sinus following insertion of a diverticuloscope during endoscopic diverticulotomy. **a** Large perforation of the piriform sinus. **b** Positioning of the first clip with rubber band attached on the lower edge of the defect. **c** Positioning of the second clip, with grasping and traction of the rubber band. **d** Positioning of subsequent clip, with closure of the defect.



after the operation, she was asymptomatic for dysphagia and no sepsis had occurred.

In conclusion, the “clips-and-rubber band” technique allows the close approximation of the edges of large perforations, including those in difficult locations such as the piriform sinus, thus facilitating complete closure.

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Competing interests

None

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