Some tricks for lumen-apposing metal stents: placement in benign esophageal strictures and a technique for reuse after complete misplacement

Lumen-apposing metal stents (LAMs) are increasingly being used in our day-to-day practice. Endoscopists are beginning to gain experience not only in their placement but also in the errors or complications that can occur during their release, which may result in failure of the procedure or the need to use a new stent, with a consequent increase in the costs of the procedure. One specific case is complete malpositioning of a stent, meaning the complete opening of the metal without it reaching the target that is being pursued. In most cases, this forces one into having to use a new LAMS or another type of stent.

While LAMs are designed to be released with an echoendoscope, there are some situations in which we need to release the stent under direct frontal view, for example in benign esophageal strictures [1,2]. However, the problem we find is that the device is designed for use with an echoendoscope and not with a therapeutic endoscope [3] (Fig. 1a).

Video 1 shows two small tricks to help in these situations. The first case shows step by step how to place and release a LAMS with a therapeutic endoscope. The second case shows how a LAMS can be reused after it has been misplaced, using the working channel to collapse the stent (Fig. 1b), thereby allowing reuse of the LAMS (Fig. 2) and avoiding an increase in the costs of the procedure.

Our video is based on benign esophageal stricture, but may be useful in many other indications where LAMs are used, such as complicated pancreatitis with walled-off pancreatic necrosis (WON) [4]. We therefore believe that this video can help colleagues who find themselves in similar situations to those described.

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Competing interests

None
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