Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) has emerged as a feasible treatment option for colorectal tumors [1]. However, large colorectal specimens obtained via ESD that are difficult to retrieve from the anal canal are often encountered. We have experienced a few cases of specimen fragmentation during retrieval. Precise histological evaluation requires an intact specimen and fragmentation should be avoided. Several recent reports have described useful techniques for the retrieval of intact resected specimens [2–4]; however, these reported methods are relatively complex. We describe a more convenient and easy way of retrieving resected specimens using a large-caliber cap.

The first case involves a 73-year-old man who underwent ESD for a large laterally spreading tumor (LST) located in the rectosigmoid colon (Fig. 1a). We removed the tumor via en bloc resection using a DualKnife (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) and a short-type small-caliber-tip transparent cap (Fujifilm, Tokyo, Japan). Because the resected specimen measured over 10 cm, its retrieval from the anal canal was very difficult. Therefore, a large-caliber (outer diameter 18 mm) oblique soft cap (D-206; Olympus) for cap-assisted endoscopic mucosal resection [5] was placed on the tip of the endoscope (Fig. 2). We suctioned the resected specimen into the cap and retrieved it easily from the anal canal (Fig. 1b, Video 1). Because the cap could pass through the anal canal while protecting the resected specimen, the resected specimen did not fragment. Precise histological evaluation revealed negative margins.

The second case involved a 68-year-old man who underwent ESD for a large LST located in the upper rectum (Fig. 3a). The tumor was removed via en bloc resection, and was easily retrieved using the same method as described above (Fig. 3b, Video 1). Since 2014, we have used this method to successfully retrieve specimens measuring over 50 mm without fragmentation, regardless of tumor shape.

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Competing interests

None

The authors

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