Combined stent-in-stent and side-by-side stenting for hilar cholangiocarcinoma using a novel braided and weaving metal stent

For hilar malignant biliary obstruction, bilateral self-expandable metal stent (SEMS) placement provides longer patency than unilateral drainage [1, 2]. Although recently developed fine-gauge delivery systems allow simultaneous side-by-side (SBS) placement, the partial stent-in-stent (SIS) method is sometimes preferred because of higher adverse event rates with SBS [3]. However, technical difficulty can be encountered with the SIS method, such as guidewire or stent delivery through the stent interstice [4]. Herein, we present a combined SIS and SBS technique using a novel SEMS with a combination of braided and weaving construction (▶ Video 1).

A 69-year-old woman with unresectable hilar cholangiocarcinoma was referred to us, and endoscopic retrograde cholangiography revealed hilar biliary obstruction. After passing three guidewires to B2, B6, and B8, respectively (▶ Fig. 1), two uncovered SEMSs (Niti-S M Biliary Stent, 8-mm-wide; Taewoong Medical Inc., Gimpo, Korea) (▶ Fig. 2) were placed, first in an SIS fashion (from B6 to the duodenum first, followed by B8 to the duodenum) (▶ Fig. 3a) without difficulty. Initially, additional stent placement was attempted in an SIS fashion but guidewire passage through the two overlapped stents was not technically easy and thus, we decided to place the third SEMS in an SBS fashion over the guidewire, which had been already placed in B2 as a landmark. The delivery system was readily inserted to B2 without interference to or from the other two SEMS, and the third SEMS (▶ Fig. 3b) was successfully deployed in an SBS fashion from
B2 to the duodenum. No procedure-related adverse events were observed. Despite the superiority of bilateral over unilateral stenting for hilar malignant biliary obstruction, there is no standard technique—SIS or SBS. This novel SEMS with braided and weaving construction allows both SIS and SBS methods, and even its combination method [5] can be applied, as shown in this case.

Competing interests

None

The authors

Tomotaka Saito1,*, Sachiko Kanai1,*, Tsuyoshi Hamada1, Hirofumi Kogure1, Yousuke Nakai1,2, Kazuhiko Koike1
1 Department of Gastroenterology, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
2 Department of Endoscopy and Endoscopic Surgery, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Corresponding author

Yousuke Nakai, MD, PhD
Department of Endoscopy and Endoscopic Surgery, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8655, Japan
Fax: +81-3-38140021
ynakai-tky@umin.ac.jp

* These authors contributed equally to this work.

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