Endoscopic papillary large balloon dilation for pancreatic duct stone: a first report

A 44-year-old woman, who had been a heavy drinker, was admitted to our hospital for treatment of a pancreatic duct stone with chronic pancreatitis. She had a previous history of endoscopic sphincterotomy for bile duct stones. Her laboratory examination showed no abnormalities. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography and magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography revealed a large pancreatic duct stone with a diameter of 10 mm within the main pancreatic duct (MPD) in the pancreatic head, causing proximal dilation of the MPD (Fig. 1). During endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, endoscopic papillary large balloon dilation (EPLBD) with a balloon catheter (Giga II EPLBD Balloon catheter; Century Medical, Tokyo, Japan) was performed, and a large pancreatic duct stone was successfully removed without any adverse events (Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Video 1).

Pancreatic duct stones are a common complication of chronic pancreatitis. Although extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) is the most common method of treating pancreatic duct stones, large stones remain a therapeutic challenge. This is the first reported case in which EPLBD was performed in the pancreatic duct and a large pancreatic duct stone was successfully removed without using ESWL. Although further clinical studies with larger samples and long-term follow-up are needed to validate and assess its safety, EPLBD should be one of the standard methods of treating pancreatic duct stones.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
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