

Successful closure of a rectovesical fistula after radical prostatectomy using endoscopic submucosal dissection combined with an over-the-scope clip

Rectovesical fistulas after prostatectomy are rare and difficult to manage, often requiring reconstructive surgery. Few cases of endoscopic treatment are currently reported with disappointing results [1]. Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) of the fistula orifice combined with a clip closure has been described as effective for chronic oeso-tracheal [2, 3] and rectal [4] fistulas after surgery or Crohn's disease [5]. We report here the first success of this technique, with video illustration (► **Video 1**), to treat a rectovesical fistula occurring after radical prostatectomy for adenocarcinoma.

A 70-year-old man presented with sepsis, rectal bleeding, and urine flow through the anus 3 days after a radical prostatectomy by laparotomy. The computed tomography (CT) scan showed an inflammatory fistula tract between the posterior wall of the bladder and the anterior wall of the rectum. A fistulous orifice with a 7-mm diameter was visualized on rectoscopy at 4 cm from the anal margin (► **Fig. 1**). A left colostomy was first performed because of the sepsis. A 10-mm mucosal patch surrounding the fistulous orifice was dissected using the DualKnife J (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) followed by submucosal injection with saline solution. The necrotic cavity was washed with normal saline solution. Mucosal closure was performed with the Twin Grasper and an OVESCO 12/6t over-the-scope clip (OTSC) (Ovesco Endoscopy AG, Tübingen, Germany).

We performed this procedure 9 days after prostatectomy. Urine flow through the anus has dried up. The retrograde



► **Video 1** Successful endoscopic closure of a rectovesical fistula after radical prostatectomy using endoscopic submucosal dissection combined with an over-the-scope clip.

cystography at 5 months did not identify any residual fistula tract, allowing stoma reversal. The last clinical follow-up after 6 months confirmed the complete resolution of rectovesical fistula. ESD of the fistulous tract associated with OTSC system closure seems effective to close small digestive fistulas and might be proposed in post-operative rectovesical fistulas. A prospective study is in progress to evaluate the results.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest



► **Fig. 1** Fistulous orifice with necrotic cavity between the posterior wall of the bladder and the anterior wall of the rectum at 4 cm from the anal margin.

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