

Experimental study of loop shape using 0.025-inch ERCP guidewires (with videos)




Authors

Takeshi Ogura, Saori Ueno, Atsushi Okuda, Nobu Nishioka, Tadahiro Yamada, Masanori Yamada, Kazuya Ueshima, Jun Matsuno, Yoshitaro Yamamoto, Kazuhide Higuchi

Institution

2nd Department of Internal Medicine, Osaka Medical College, Osaka, Japan

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70469 Stuttgart, Germany

Corresponding author

Takeshi Ogura, 2nd Department of Internal Medicine, Osaka Medical College, 2-7 Daigakuchou, Takatsukishi, Osaka 569-8686, Japan

Fax: +81-726846532

oguratakeshi0411@yahoo.co.jp

ABSTRACT

Background and study aims Duct penetration by the guidewire sometimes occurs during endoscopic retrograde cholangiography, which might lead to adverse events such as acute pancreatitis. To prevent duct penetration, making a loop shape with the guidewire might provide a useful technique. The aim of this experimental study was thus to evaluate which types of guidewire can most easily form a loop shape.

Methods This experimental study evaluated six guidewires (0.025-inch, angle type): MICHISUJI; VisiGlide 2; Jagwire; Pathcorse; RevoWave- α UltraHard 2; and M-through. Flexibility of the tip, shaft stiffness, and the ability to form a loop were evaluated for each type in an ex vivo model. Deformation behavior was also recorded on video, and factors suitable for making a loop shape in each guidewire were evaluated.

Results Flexibility and stiffness of each guidewire differed significantly. During an experimental study regrading deformation behavior before forming a loop shape, maximum load was lower for MICHISUJI (6.8 g) than for other guidewires (Jagwire [11.3 g], M-through [12.9 g], VisiGlide 2 [12.9 g], Revowave [21 g], and Pathcorse [25.4 g]). Mean time required to achieve a loop shape was as follows: MICHISUJI, 6.2 seconds; M-through, 8.7 seconds; VisiGlide 2, 11.0 seconds; and Revowave, 7.1 seconds.

Conclusion In conclusion, characteristics of flexibility and stiffness among guidewires were significantly different in the ex-vivo study. In the experimental study regrading deformation behavior until achieving a loop shape, maximum load also differed. To evaluate whether guidewires easily form a loop shape, clinical study is needed.

Introduction

To date, various biliary cannulation techniques have been described, such use of a double guidewire or physician-controlled guidewire technique, and techniques for metal stent deployment to treat malignant hilar biliary obstruction, such as stent-in-stent, side-by-side, or hybrid stent deployment techniques in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography

(ERCP) procedures [1–6]. Recently, interventional endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), such as hepaticogastrostomy, choledochoduodenostomy, or pancreatic transluminal drainage, has also been developed [7,8]. As a common point of importance, a guidewire plays a crucial role in procedures. Furthermore, because various kinds of guidewires are available in Japan, selection of a guidewire is also important. Most endoscopists might select a 0.025- or 0.035-inch guidewire. Compared with a

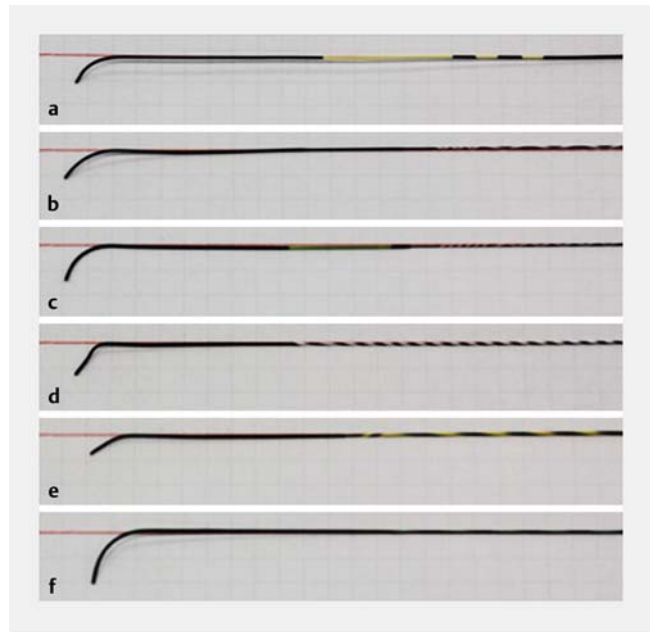
0.035-inch guidewire, the 0.025-inch version is obviously thinner, and procedures such as the two-devices-in-one-channel method might thus be performed more easily. On the other hand, duct penetration by a guidewire sometimes occurs during ERCP, and might lead to adverse events (AEs) such as acute pancreatitis. To prevent duct penetration, guidewire flexibility might be important. Forming a loop shape with the guidewire might be a useful technique to prevent duct penetration [9].

On the other hand, several authors have described the clinical benefits of using a loop-tip guidewire during biliary cannulation [10,11]. Compared with conventional guidewires, the risk of insertion into a pancreatic branch duct is lower with a loop-tip guidewire due to its shape. Loop shape might thus prevent pancreatic or bile duct injury. However, loop-tip guidewires are not yet available in Japan, but procedures such as selective advancement to the objective duct or through the stricture site might be difficult after biliary cannulation. Conventional guidewires are thus commonly selected as ERCP guidewires.

The ability to create a loop shape differs among types of guidewires. Experimental studies of loop shape have been reported in endourology and the endovascular field [12–15], but not in the pancreatic and biliary endoscopic fields [15]. In addition, from the perspective of loop shape, no evidence has been accumulated regarding which guidewires most easily take on a loop shape. The aim of this experimental study was to evaluate which types of guidewires can most easily form a loop shape.

Materials and methods

This experimental study evaluated six guidewires (0.025-inch, angle type): MICHISUJI (KANEKA Medical, Osaka, Japan); VisiGlide 2 (Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan); Jagwire (Boston Scientific Co., Marlborough, Massachusetts, United States); Revo wave- α UltraHard 2 (Piolax Medical Devices, Kanagawa, Japan); and M-through (Medico's HIRATAOsaka, Japan) (► Fig. 1). Flexibility of the tip, shaft stiffness, and the ability to form a loop were evaluated for each type in an ex vivo model. Characteristics of guidewires used in this study are shown in ► Table 1. All guidewires were provided with research funding from Osaka Medical College.



► Fig. 1 Images of guidewires in this study. **a** MICHISUJI (KANEKA Medical, Osaka, Japan). **b** M-through (Medico's HIRATAOsaka, Japan). **c** VisiGlide 2 (Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan). **d** Revo wave- α UltraHard 2 (Piolax Medical Devices, Kanagawa, Japan). **e** Jagwire (Boston Scientific Co., Marlborough, Massachusetts, United States). **f** Pathcorse (Boston Scientific Co., Marlborough, Massachusetts, United States).

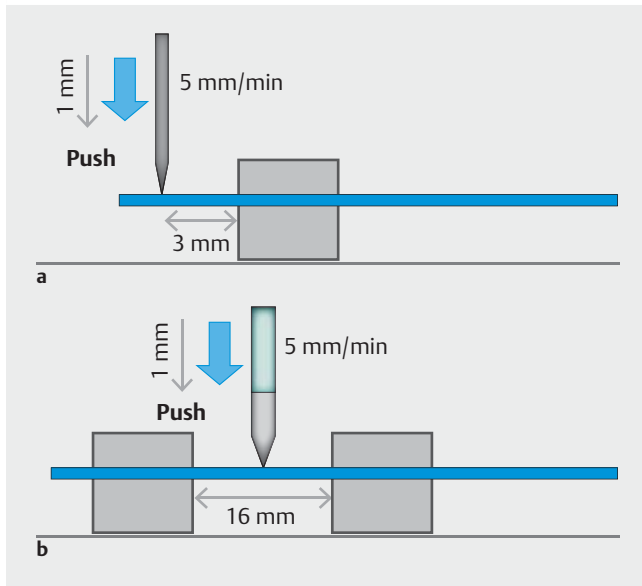
Measurement of tip flexibility and shaft stiffness

► Fig. 2a shows measurements of flexibility for the guidewire tip. The shaft of each guidewire was pinched with an iron block. The guidewire was then pushed at a distance of 3 mm from the tip using a load-testing device (EZ-TEST; Shimadzu Corp., Kyoto, Japan). Pushing speed was 5 mm/min with a 5-N force. Denting of the guidewire itself until deformation of 0.5 mm was performed using the same load-testing device. The same test was performed at sites 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 mm from the tip. We measured these values in newtons (N). During ERCP, the guidewire was first inserted into the biliary or pancreatic duct until it was 30 mm from the tip. Given the length of the branch of the pancreatic or intrahepatic bile duct, we considered this

► Table 1 Characteristics of guidewires used in this study.

Brand name	Manufacturer	Length of soft tips (mm)	Sheath material	Tip core material	Spiral coiled spring	Tip coating
MICHISUJI	KANEKA	50	PTFE	Ti-Ni	No	Hydrophilic coating
VisiGlide 2	Olympus	70	PTFE	Nitinol	No	Hydrophilic coating
Pathcorse	Boston	70	PTFE	Ti-Ni	Yes	Hydrophilic coating
RevoWave	Piolax	50	PTFE	Ti-Ni	Yes	Hydrophilic coating
M-through	Medico's HIRATA	75	PTFE	Ti-Ni	No	Hydrophilic coating
Jagwire	Boston	50	PTFE	Tungsten	No	Hydrophilic coating

Ti-Ni, titanium and nickel alloy; PTFE, polytetrafluoroethylene



► **Fig. 2** Measurement of **a** flexibility and **b** stiffness at the guidewire tip. **a** The shaft of each guidewire is pinched between iron blocks. The guidewire is pushed at a distance of 3 mm from the tip using a load-testing device (EZ-TEST, Shimadzu Corp., Kyoto, Japan). Pushing speed is 5 mm/min with a 5-N force. Denting of the guidewire itself to a deformation of 0.5 mm is performed using a load-testing device. The same operation is attempted at 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, and 30-cm sites. **b** The guidewire is pinched between iron blocks (width, 16 mm). The guidewire is then pushed at the center between two iron blocks using a load-testing device. Pushing speed is also 5 mm/min with a 5-N force. This measurement is performed at distances from 40 mm to 120 mm from the tip.

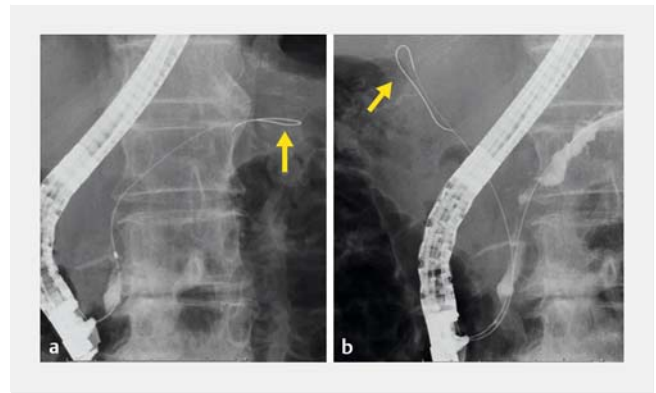
point on the guidewire a useful reflection of guidewire flexibility.

► **Fig. 2b** shows measurements of shaft stiffness for each guidewire. A guidewire was pinched by two iron blocks. The width of each iron block was 16 mm. The guidewire was then pushed to the center between two iron blocks using a load-testing device. Pushing speed was also 5 mm/min with a 5-N force. This measurement was performed at distances from 40 mm to 120 mm. Stiffness was measured at nine points in the region, from 40 mm to 120 mm. These sites may be in the bile duct and pancreatic duct after deep cannulation during ERCP, and were thus considered to reflect push ability.

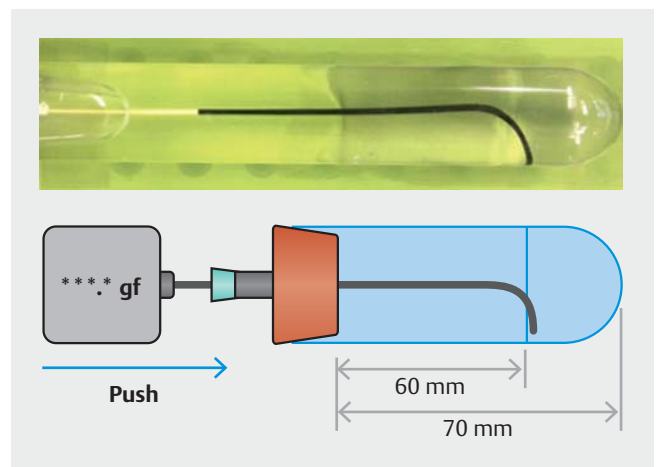
Finally, in these experimental procedures, four units of each type of guidewire were tested, with each unit tested twice.

Ex vivo experimental evaluation of loop shaping

► **Fig. 3** shows an image of guidewire insertion using the loop shape technique. When the guidewire was a loop shape, pancreatic or biliary duct penetration might have been difficult. In addition, ► **Fig. 4** shows evaluation of the ability to achieve a loop shape in an ex vivo model. The guidewire was inserted into a test tube (length, 70 mm; width, 13.5 mm) filled with normal saline. The length of inserted guidewire was 110 mm. Pushing speed was 5 mm/s, and the procedure was performed until the guidewire was moved 50 mm. During this procedure,



► **Fig. 3** Image of loop-shaped guidewire insertion in vivo (**a** pancreatic duct; **b** bile duct). Arrow shows loop shape.



► **Fig. 4** Image of loop-shaped guidewire insertion in the ex vivo model. The guidewire is inserted into a test tube (length, 70 mm; width, 13.5 mm) filled with normal saline. Length of the inserted guidewire is 110 mm. Pushing speed is 5 mm/s, and the procedure is performed until the guidewire has been moved 50 mm.

the force required to push the guidewire was consecutively measured using a load testing device (FGPX series; NIDEC-SHIMPO Corp., Kyoto, Japan). Deformation behavior was also recorded on video, and factors suitable for making a loop shape in each guidewire were evaluated. These experimental procedures were tested twice for each guidewire.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive statistics are presented as mean \pm standard deviation. Data for tip flexibility and shaft stiffness between guidewires were compared using analysis of variance. Differences showing values of $P < 0.05$ were considered statistically significant. All data were statistically analyzed using SPSS version 13.0 statistical software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois, United States).

Results

► **Table 2** shows data on tip flexibility for each guidewire. The flexibility of each guidewire differed significantly between each site. Among these, the Revowave and M-through were extremely flexible at 5 mm from the tip compared with the other four guidewires. On the other hand, the Pathcorse was the stiffest at this site. However, at 10 mm from the tip, the Revowave was markedly stiffer than the other guidewires.

► **Table 3** shows stiffness data for each guidewire. All guidewires showed stepwise increases in stiffness from 40 mm to 120 mm. However, stiffness of each guidewire differed significantly at each site. At sites 40 mm and 50 mm from the tip, Pathcorse was stiffer than other guidewires. At sites 60 mm to 80 mm from the tip, Revowave was stiffest. However, at sites 100 mm and 120 mm from the tip, Jagwire was the stiffest of the 6 guidewires.

► **Fig. 5** shows deformation behaviors of each guidewire. The MICHISUJI achieved a loop shape after the tip contacted the bottom of the test tube (► **Fig. 5a** and ► **Video 1**). After moving the guidewire slowly to straighten the wire, the tip was advanced along the curve of the bottom of the test tube. Finally, a loop shape was formed. The M-Through formed a loop shape similar to that of the MICHISUJI after the guidewire tip contacted the bottom of the test tube (► **Fig. 5b** and ► **Video 2**). The tip of the guidewire then jumped and formed a loop shape. The

VisiGlide 2 also formed a loop shape, similar to the MICHISUJI, then formed a loop (► **Fig. 5c** and ► **Video 3**). After the guidewire was advanced in a loop shape, the tip jumped. Finally, the tip formed a loop shape. The Revowave formed a loop shape in the same way as the MICHISUJI. When the guidewire was inserted further, the tip of the guidewire flipped just before forming a loop, and a loop shape was formed at the guidewire tip (► **Fig. 5d** and ► **Video 4**). The Pathcorse (► **Fig. 5e** and ► **Video 5**) and Jagwire (► **Fig. 5f** and ► **Video 6**) were transformed until a loop similar to the VisiGlide2 was formed. However, the tip of the guidewire could not be made into a loop shape. As shown in ► **Fig. 6**, load was measured while pushing each guidewire. During this experiment, maximum load was lowest for MICHISUJI (6.8 g), compared with other guidewires [the Jagwire (11.3 g), M-through (12.9 g), VisiGlide 2 (12.9 g), Revowave (21 g), and Pathcorse (25.4 g)]. Mean time required to achieve a loop shape was as follows: MICHISUJI, 6.2 s; M-through, 8.7 s; VisiGlide 2, 11.0 s; and Revowave, 7.1 s.

Discussion

Clinically, guidewires play two important main roles: functioning as guides for placing stents or other devices and providing access to the pancreatic duct or biliary tract. Technical success for these purposes requires different mechanical and functional characteristics. For stent deployment or insertion of various de-

► **Table 2** Tip flexibility of each guidewire.

	Sample	Number	Distance from tip / mm						
			5	10	15	20	25	30	
MICHISUJI	A	1	0.052	0.065		0.074		0.073	
	B	1	0.045	0.052	0.058	0.057	0.056	0.065	
		2	0.046	0.053	0.062	0.057	0.060	0.065	
	C	1	0.040	0.049	0.059	0.063	0.065	0.067	
		2	0.043	0.049	0.059	0.063	0.066	0.066	
	D	1	0.045	0.055	0.065	0.066	0.061	0.062	
		2	0.041	0.055	0.064	0.066	0.061	0.062	
	Average			0.043	0.052	0.061	0.062	0.062	0.065
	SD			0.002	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.002
VisiGlide 2	A	1	0.083	0.103		0.098		0.108	
	B	1	0.054	0.066	0.092	0.096	0.098	0.094	
		2	0.058	0.071	0.094	0.096	0.101	0.099	
	C	1	0.099	0.091	0.088	0.095	0.109	0.151	
		2	0.090	0.092	0.090	0.097	0.108	0.148	
	D	1	0.106	0.085	0.086	0.088	0.111	0.136	
		2	0.109	0.088	0.090	0.093	0.112	0.141	
	Average			0.086	0.082	0.090	0.094	0.106	0.128
	SD			0.024	0.011	0.003	0.003	0.006	0.025

► **Table 2** (Continuation)

	Sample	Number	Distance from tip / mm					
			5	10	15	20	25	30
Pathcorse	A	1	0.116	0.150		0.179		0.178
	B	1	0.123	0.136	0.133	0.133	0.161	0.152
		2	0.124	0.136	0.135	0.135	0.163	0.153
	C	1	0.074	0.098	0.103	0.129	0.146	0.162
		2	0.074	0.097	0.103	0.130	0.148	0.162
	D	1	0.078	0.081	0.115	0.146	0.176	0.186
		2	0.081	0.082	0.117	0.145	0.178	0.186
	Average			0.092	0.105	0.118	0.136	0.162
SD			0.024	0.025	0.014	0.007	0.014	0.016
RevoWave	A	1	0.017	0.127		0.133		0.166
	B	1	0.018	0.059	0.088	0.088	0.128	0.161
		2	0.017	0.059	0.088	0.088	0.127	0.161
	C	1	0.021	0.097	0.103	0.099	0.148	0.184
		2	0.021	0.097	0.103	0.099	0.147	0.183
	D	1	0.013	0.074	0.100	0.108	0.134	0.179
		2	0.014	0.073	0.099	0.107	0.134	0.177
	Average			0.017	0.076	0.097	0.098	0.136
SD			0.003	0.017	0.007	0.009	0.009	0.011
M-through	A	1	0.018	0.032		0.037		0.045
	B	1	0.020	0.035	0.047	0.045	0.047	0.053
		2	0.023	0.037	0.045	0.047	0.052	0.057
	C	1	0.020	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.049	0.055
		2	0.022	0.036	0.039	0.039	0.049	0.055
	D	1	0.025	0.023	0.024	0.028	0.037	0.045
		2	0.026	0.023	0.024	0.028	0.041	0.050
	Average			0.023	0.032	0.036	0.037	0.046
SD			0.003	0.007	0.010	0.008	0.006	0.005
Jagwire	A	1						
	B	1	0.054	0.064	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.071
		2	0.055	0.066	0.069	0.070	0.071	0.072
	C	1	0.057	0.077	0.073	0.074	0.076	0.077
		2	0.060	0.077	0.074	0.074	0.076	0.077
	D	1	0.071	0.070	0.074	0.068	0.072	0.075
		2	0.073	0.070	0.073	0.068	0.073	0.075
	E	1	0.078	0.071	0.080	0.081	0.083	0.090
		2	0.079	0.071	0.080	0.081	0.083	0.090
	Average			0.066	0.071	0.074	0.073	0.075
SD			0.011	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.007

► **Table 3** Shaft stiffness of each guidewire.

	Sample	Number	Distance from tip/mm									
			40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	
MICHISUJI	A	1	0.1186	0.1497	0.2928	0.4782	0.5215	0.8511	1.1479	1.4707	2.0294	
	B	1	0.0954	0.1285	0.1612	0.2995	0.4651	0.8148	1.2270	1.7022	2.0876	
		2	0.0978	0.1297	0.1606	0.3033	0.4765	0.8186	1.2257	1.7210	2.0889	
	C	1	0.0899	0.1203	0.2040	0.2468	0.4066	0.8013	1.1788	1.4961	1.9752	
		2	0.0897	0.1219	0.2051	0.2509	0.4063	0.8039	1.1767	1.4927	1.9784	
	D	1	0.0854	0.1267	0.1728	0.2830	0.6058	0.8857	1.2017	1.6091	2.1554	
		2	0.0871	0.1270	0.1800	0.2844	0.6139	0.8855	1.1994	1.6068	2.1593	
	Average			0.0909	0.1256	0.1806	0.2780	0.4957	0.8350	1.2015	1.6046	2.0741
	SD			0.005	0.004	0.020	0.024	0.093	0.040	0.022	0.097	0.082
VisiGlide 2	A	1	0.1133	0.1212	0.2059	0.2189	0.4073	0.4905	0.6261	1.0493	1.5354	
	B	1	0.1053	0.1250	0.1852	0.2575	0.3661	0.4082	0.7240	1.1593	1.7340	
		2	0.1061	0.1260	0.1846	0.2584	0.3635	0.4136	0.7153	1.1593	1.7359	
	C	1	0.1053	0.1270	0.1948	0.2154	0.3807	0.4452	0.7501	1.2399	1.7980	
		2	0.1034	0.1264	0.1937	0.2189	0.3815	0.4453	0.7581	1.2415	1.7947	
	D	1	0.0974	0.1368	0.2071	0.2637	0.3715	0.4556	0.7589	1.1625	1.6951	
		2	0.0975	0.1366	0.2055	0.2649	0.3689	0.4783	0.7616	1.1632	1.7037	
	Average			0.1025	0.1296	0.1951	0.2465	0.3720	0.4410	0.7447	1.1876	1.7436
	SD			0.004	0.006	0.010	0.023	0.008	0.026	0.020	0.041	0.044
Pathcorse	A	1	0.1996	0.2718	0.3645	0.4479	0.5881	0.8177	1.1028	1.4228	1.7702	
	B	1	0.1922	0.2604	0.3417	0.4498	0.5800	0.8393	1.0853	1.4135	1.7366	
		2	0.1933	0.2601	0.3416	0.4513	0.5804	0.8399	1.0865	1.4162	1.7336	
	C	1	0.1962	0.2633	0.3403	0.4262	0.5583	0.7919	1.0706	1.4814	1.8297	
		2	0.1992	0.2638	0.3418	0.4264	0.5595	0.7920	1.0706	1.4814	1.8265	
	D	1	0.2030	0.2865	0.3823	0.4492	0.6103	0.8795	1.1194	1.3675	1.7303	
		2	0.2024	0.2861	0.3839	0.4461	0.6096	0.8768	1.1187	1.3661	1.7291	
	Average			0.1977	0.2700	0.3553	0.4415	0.5830	0.8366	1.0918	1.4210	1.7643
	SD			0.005	0.013	0.022	0.012	0.023	0.039	0.022	0.051	0.049
RevoWave	A	1	0.2816	0.2219	0.3357	0.5270	0.7460	0.9837	1.2534	1.5973	2.0555	
	B	1	0.1672	0.2486	0.3814	0.5229	0.7223	0.9177	1.2246	1.6107	2.0452	
		2	0.1681	0.2485	0.3806	0.5215	0.7234	0.9177	1.2222	1.6116	2.0452	
	C	1	0.1748	0.2418	0.3804	0.5183	0.6891	0.9927	1.2448	1.6334	2.0220	
		2	0.1759	0.2418	0.3814	0.5181	0.6923	0.9895	1.2515	1.6275	2.0270	
	D	1	0.1732	0.2467	0.3806	0.5063	0.6988	0.9383	1.1986	1.5232	1.9145	
		2	0.1729	0.2474	0.3800	0.5056	0.6989	0.9392	1.1982	1.5257	1.9170	
	Average			0.1720	0.2458	0.3807	0.5154	0.7041	0.9492	1.2233	1.5887	1.9951
	SD			0.004	0.003	0.001	0.008	0.015	0.034	0.022	0.051	0.062

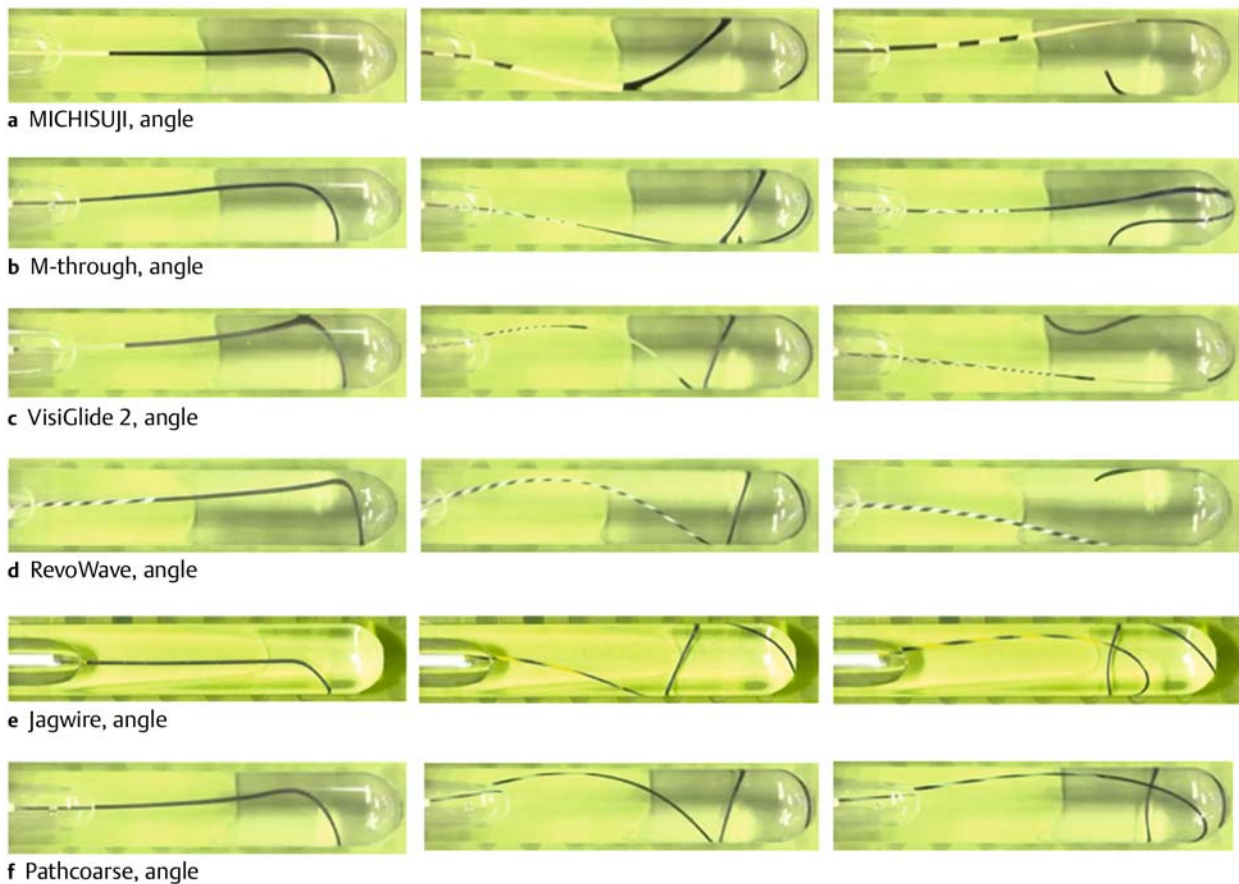
► **Table 3** (Continuation)

	Sample	Number	Distance from tip/mm									
			40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	
M-through	A	1	0.1063	0.1693	0.2025	0.2745	0.3908	0.4934	0.6706	0.9872	1.3147	
	B	1	0.1285	0.2179	0.2118	0.2653	0.4874	0.6031	0.8363	1.1317	1.4093	
		2	0.1342	0.2114	0.2133	0.2681	0.4932	0.6010	0.8371	1.1408	1.4013	
	C	1	0.1075	0.1824	0.2198	0.3405	0.4773	0.6315	0.8684	1.1680	1.4622	
		2	0.1130	0.1909	0.2218	0.3373	0.4748	0.6317	0.8632	1.1701	1.4649	
	D	1	0.1011	0.1684	0.1992	0.3134	0.4617	0.5183	0.7689	1.1089	1.3288	
		2	0.1040	0.1744	0.2225	0.3140	0.4652	0.5168	0.7717	1.1070	1.3248	
	Average			0.1147	0.1909	0.2148	0.3064	0.4766	0.5837	0.8243	1.1377	1.3985
SD			0.014	0.020	0.009	0.033	0.012	0.053	0.044	0.028	0.061	
Jagwire	B	1	0.0755	0.0920	0.1900	0.3244	0.5882	0.9244	1.3992	1.9363	2.2688	
		2	0.0751	0.0912	0.1896	0.3245	0.5879	0.9240	1.3981	1.9386	2.2679	
	C	1	0.0764	0.1036	0.2027	0.3347	0.5611	0.9247	1.4480	1.9465	2.2483	
		2	0.0765	0.1033	0.2031	0.3351	0.5610	0.9245	1.4479	1.9460	2.2597	
	E	1	0.0789	0.0924	0.1869	0.3286	0.5753	0.9426	1.3841	1.9091	2.1966	
		2	0.0794	0.0934	0.1868	0.3307	0.5757	0.9430	1.3884	1.9104	2.2039	
	Average			0.077	0.096	0.193	0.330	0.575	0.931	1.411	1.931	2.241
	SD			0.002	0.006	0.008	0.005	0.012	0.010	0.029	0.017	0.032

vices such as an ERCP catheter over the guidewire, stiffness of the shaft is extremely relevant. On the other hand, to provide access to the pancreatic duct or bile duct, tip flexibility promotes easy passage. In addition, this function might also play an important role in preventing pancreatic or bile duct penetration. A combination of these characteristics in a guidewire might thus be beneficial. Novel guidewires with these characteristics have recently been produced, especially with respect to tip flexibility. To prevent duct penetration, a loop-shaped guidewire might be useful, and many endoscopists also consider tip flexibility to play an important role in forming a loop shape. However, according to the present experimental study, flexibility alone was insufficient to form a loop shape. In addition, compared with a previous study [15], our study showed advantages such as measurement of tip bending force using more sensitive instruments.

In the present study of deformation behaviors for each guidewire, the MICHISUJI began to form a loop shape after the guidewire tip curved along the curved bottom of the test tube. When a guidewire up to 20 mm from the tip came into contact with the curved bottom of the test tube, contact resistance prevented further insertion of the guidewire. The loop shape was then most likely formed when a force in the direction of compression was applied more than 20 mm from the guidewire tip. This contact resistance might occur due to stiffness at a distance of around 20 mm from the tip of the guidewire. If the guidewire is stiff around this site, the force to return the wire into a straight shape is strong. The guidewire is thus pushed to

the wall surface at the bottom of the test tube as well. In addition, because deformation behaviors after loop shape formation differed among guidewires, stiffness of the guidewire beyond a distance of 30 mm from the tip might affect the maximum load required to make a loop shape. To evaluate this hypothesis, stiffness of the guidewire was measured 40 to 120 mm from the tip of the guidewire. As shown in ► **Table 2**, at a distance of 20 mm from the tip, the MICHISUJI was continuously flexible, and was thus able to be advanced after the tip came into contact with the bottom of the test tube without guidewire jumping. Little load was required before the MICHISUJI formed a loop shape due to the above. On the other hand, the M-Through was most flexible at 20 to 30 mm from the tip. However, flexibility was gradually decreased from 20 to 30 mm. When the tip came into contact with the bottom of the test tube, deformation therefore occurred at a distance beyond 30 mm. On touching the test tube wall, the maximum load required to form a loop shape most likely exceeded that of the MICHISUJI. The VisiGlide 2 was almost flexible compared with other guidewires at 40 to 120 mm. Maximum load before forming a loop shape was thus higher than for the MICHISUJI, for the same reason as for the M-Through. The guidewire was stiff at more than 40 mm from the tip of the RevoWave, and was also stiff at a distance of 20 mm. Maximum load to form a loop shape was the highest for this guidewire. On the other hand, at 20 mm and 30 mm from the tip, the Pathcorse was one of stiffest of the guidewires. A loop shape thus could not be made. With respect to loop shape, the MICHISUJI might there-



► **Fig. 5** Deformation behaviors of each guidewire. This experimental procedure is tested twice for each guidewire, and behaviors are the same for each test. The **a** MICHISUJI, **b** M-Through, **c** VisiGlide 2, and **d** Revowave make a loop shape, whereas the **e** Jagwire and **f** Pathcourse cannot make a loop shape.

fore be the most suitable. In clinical practice, for patients at risk of post-ERCP pancreatitis, the MICHISUJI may be clinically useful, although confirmation in a clinical trial is needed. However, although the loop shape may help prevent duct penetration [10, 11], creation of the loop shape may make guidewire passage through stricture sites more challenging. This function should therefore also be evaluated in an experimental study. However, our study aimed to evaluate loop shape with the aim of preventing AEs, and did not investigate penetration ability. Further experimental study is needed.

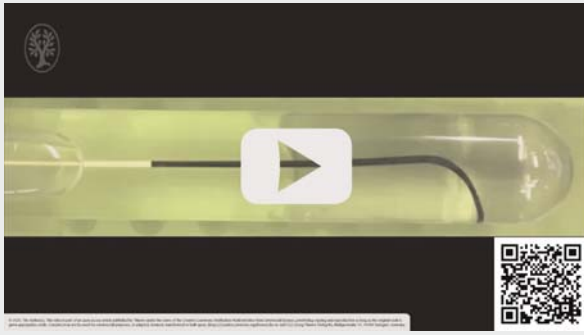
Limitations of the present study were as follows. First, the environment of this study differed from in vivo conditions. Second, although the aim of the study was to evaluate how guidewires form a loop shape, the role of lubricity in each guidewire was not examined. In addition, the core wire constituting the guidewire, such as monofilament wires or monofilament wires covered with spiral coiled spring, might have influenced stricture penetration during cannulation [16]. Our experimental study did not account for this factor. Further, twisting the element might be an important factor in creating a loop shape. This issue was also not evaluated in the present study. Third,

during evaluation of the deformation behaviors of each guidewire, the test tube was filled with normal saline. In vivo, the guidewire would be maneuvered within bile or pancreatic juice. Finally, many kinds of guidewires are available around the world, but only six guidewires were evaluated in the present study, even though these guidewires are frequently used in Japan.

Conclusion

In conclusion, characteristics of flexibility and stiffness among guidewires differed significantly in an ex-vivo study. In this experimental study regarding deformation behavior until a loop shape was formed, maximum loads also differed. To evaluate whether guidewires easily form a loop shape, clinical study is needed.

▶ VIDEO



▶ **Video 1** Deformation behavior of each guidewire. This experimental procedure is tested twice for each guidewire, and behaviors are the same for each test. The MICHISUJI

▶ VIDEO



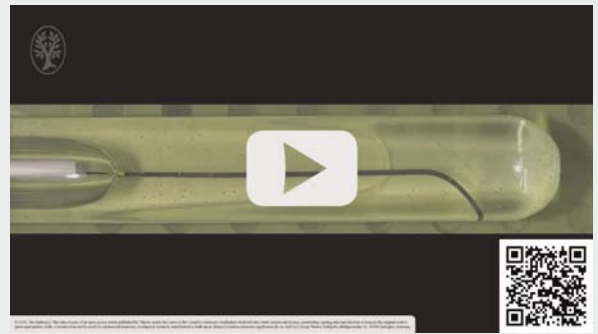
▶ **Video 4** Deformation behavior of each guidewire. This experimental procedure is tested twice for each guidewire, and behaviors are the same for each test. Revowave make loop shapes

▶ VIDEO



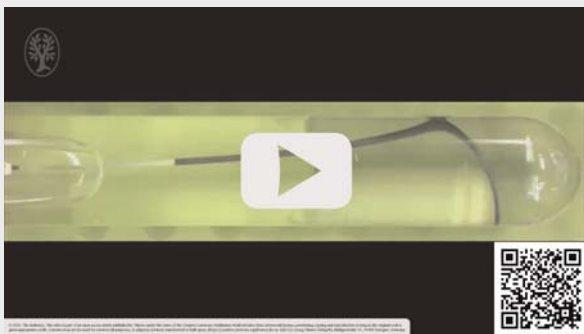
▶ **Video 2** Deformation behavior of each guidewire. This experimental procedure is tested twice for each guidewire, and behaviors are the same for each test. M-through

▶ VIDEO



▶ **Video 5** Deformation behavior of each guidewire. This experimental procedure is tested twice for each guidewire, and behaviors are the same for each test. The Jagwire

▶ VIDEO

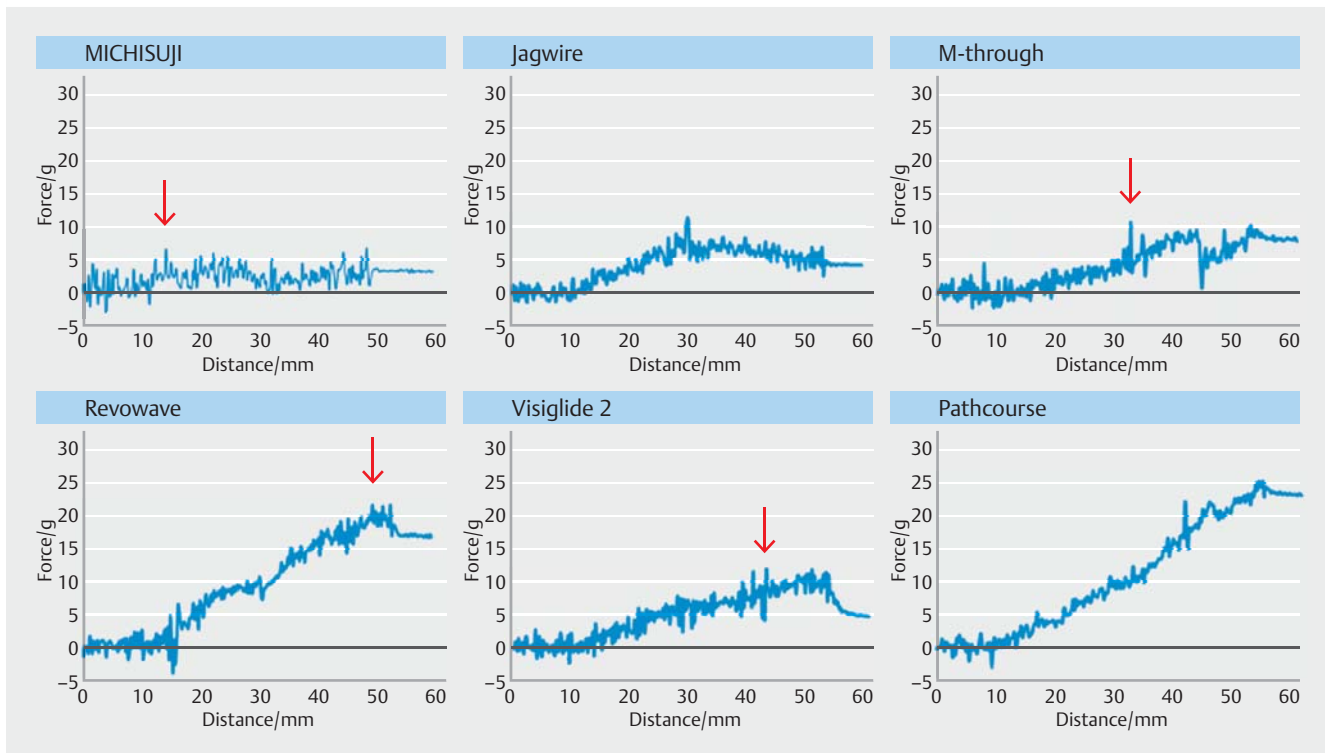


▶ **Video 3** Deformation behavior of each guidewire. This experimental procedure is tested twice for each guidewire, and behaviors are the same for each test. VisiGlide 2

▶ VIDEO



▶ **Video 6** Deformation behavior of each guidewire. This experimental procedure is tested twice for each guidewire, and behaviors are the same for each test. Pathcourse fail to make a loop shape



► **Fig. 6** Load measurements while pushing each guidewire. During this experiment, maximum load was lowest for **a** MICHISUJI (6.8 g), followed by **b** the Jagwire (11.3 g), **c** M-through (12.9 g), **d** VisiGlide 2 (12.9 g), **e** Revowave (21 g), and **f** Pathcourse (25.4 g). Arrow shows the distance at which the guidewire forms a loop shape.

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Competing interests

Dr. Ogura is a consultant for KANEKA.

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