Effectiveness of red dichromatic imaging for dissection of the submucosal layer when hematoma is encountered

Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) for gastric tumors is performed worldwide. When vascularized lesions are treated, hematoma in the submucosal layer is sometimes encountered during dissection. The presence of submucosal fibrosis and hematoma often makes dissection very difficult because identifying the correct submucosal tissue plane is almost impossible despite attempts at washing using the scope’s water jet function. Red dichromatic imaging (RDI; Dual Red Imaging) is a recently released novel image-enhanced endoscopic technology (Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan) [1–4]. We report a case in which RDI helped identify submucosal fibrous tissue in the submucosal layer with hematoma during gastric ESD.

A 72-year-old man with a gastric tumor was referred to our hospital. ESD was performed using an electrosurgical knife (IT2 knife; Olympus Medical Systems) and therapeutic gastroscope (GIF-H290 T with EVIS X1 video system; Olympus Medical Systems). A circumferential incision was made and the submucosal layer subsequently dissected. However, the submucosal injection caused bleeding in the submucosal layer, leading to submucosal hematoma (Video 1; Fig. 1). In this situation, identifying the submucosal fibrous tissue for dissection under white light (Video 1; Fig. 2a) was difficult. The white light imaging was then switched to RDI, and the submucosal fibrous tissue could be visualized more clearly (Fig. 2b). The submucosal layer was dissected and the tumor finally resected en bloc.

In this case, the submucosal fibrous tissue was identified because it showed whiter using RDI than under normal white light imaging (Fig. 3), and the bleeding was visualized as yellow on RDI. Thus, the submucosal fibrous tissue could be identified through the hematoma, and was dissected despite the presence of the hematoma. Another advantage of RDI is that it keeps the endoscopic view clearer during ESD with submucosal fatty tissue [5]. We believe that RDI is useful for dissecting submucosal fibrous tissue in the submu-
cosal layer with hematoma during gastric ESD.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AB_2AD_3AF

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1333-0831
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2021
© 2021, Thieme. All rights reserved.
Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany

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