Forging a new path: an endoscopic jejunojejunostomy

A 74-year-old man with a history of T2N1 gastric adenocarcinoma who underwent a total gastrectomy with a Roux-en-Y reconstruction presented to our institution with dysphagia. Since his surgery, the patient had several presentations to multiple area hospitals with the complaint of dysphagia to solids with vomiting, and what appeared to be intermittent food bolus obstructions. He underwent several dilations of his esophagojejunal anastomosis without improvement of his symptoms, and in fact it seemed that the greatest issue was not a stricture of the anastomosis, but rather twisting of the jejunal limbs making the blind limb the dominant lumen.

This was confirmed with an esophagram, which showed delayed passage of contrast at the esophagojejunal level, with the contrast emptying into the blind jejunal limb. Contrast was then expelled through a narrow and angulated proximal efferent alimentary limb. Inspired by recent off-label use of lumen-apposing metal stents (LAMS) [1,2], we proposed fistulization of the two jejunal limbs using a LAMS. A guidewire was advanced into the efferent limb, followed by the endoscope, which was then used to flood the lumen of the efferent limb with methylene blue, Omnipaque, and saline. A linear echoendoscope was then advanced into the blind limb and used to identify the distended, fluid-filled efferent limb and guidewire. A 15-mm LAMS was then deployed, fistulizing the two limbs (▶Video 1).

An esophagram 24 hours after the procedure showed improved flow of ingested material into the efferent jejunal limb, and at 2-week follow-up the patient was doing well on a full liquid diet without any further dysphagia. The patient continues to do well and gain weight at 2 months post-procedure. This case highlights another practical application of LAMS in helping bypass functional obstructions to improve a patient’s symptoms and quality of life.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AS_2AG

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Endoscopy 2021; 53: E461
DOI 10.1055/a-1346-7678
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 4.2.2021
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Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Rüdigerstraße 14, 70469 Stuttgart, Germany