A novel balloon-attached endoscopy-assisted reduction technique for an acute strangulated stoma prolapse

Stoma prolapse is a common late complication that occurs in 2–26% of colostomies [1]. Prolapse is most frequently seen after loop colostomies [2] and often involves the distal limb [3]. Prolapsed stoma is rarely incarcerated or strangulated; however, such cases require emergency surgery [3, 4].

A 70-year-old woman suffering from obstructive rectal cancer with multiple liver and lung metastases underwent transverse loop colostomy and subsequent chemotherapy. On day 2 after initiation of second-line chemotherapy (infusional 5-FU, leucovorin, and irinotecan plus ramucirumab), the distal limb of loop colostomy was prolapsed and strangulated owing to edema. The prolapsed colon wall was entirely reddish and edematous with a superficial brown spot at the tip (Fig. 1) and manual reduction using sugar as a desiccant was unsuccessful. Although emergency surgery is usually indicated in such circumstances, it is associated with perioperative complications due to administration of ramucirumab. Hence, we attempted a unique balloon-attached endoscopy-assisted reduction (Fig. 2). An 11-mm balloon for endoscopic injection sclerotherapy (MD-47411L; Sumitomo Bakelite Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) was attached to the shaft of the colonoscope (Fig. 3), and it was inserted into the prolapsed stoma such that the balloon came in contact with the invaginated inside wall. To ensure secure placement, the balloon diameter should be smaller than the outer diameter of the prolapsed tract but slightly larger than the inside diameter. The balloon was kept in contact with the prolapsed inside wall while the endoscope was gradually pushed forward, and simultaneously another operator facilitated repositioning of the inside wall with their hand. This procedure was slowly repeated until the prolapsed stoma had been successfully reduced (Fig. 4). No recurrence was observed thereafter.

We describe a novel non-surgical “balloon-attached endoscopy-assisted reduction” approach that may be a useful conservative technique for reducing an incarcerated stoma prolapse (Video 1).

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
The authors

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Video 1
Balloon-attached endoscopy-assisted reduction for strangulated stoma prolapse.

Fig. 3 Balloon-attached endoscopy. Balloon for endoscopic injection sclerotherapy was attached to the shaft of the colonoscope.

Fig. 4 Successful reduction of stoma prolapse.