Usefulness of a papilla fixation method with an innovative clipping system for bile duct cannulation

Selective bile duct cannulation (SBDC) is difficult when the papilla of Vater is unstable because of a long narrow distal segment. Pancreatic duct guidewire placement techniques, such as the double-guidewire technique (DGT), are used to fix the papilla and facilitate SBDC [1, 2], but it is difficult to approach the pancreatic duct when the papilla is unstable. A simple and easy method of fixing the papilla and stretching a narrow distal segment using an innovative clipping system (SureClip; Micro-Tech, Nanjing, China) is presented.

A 56-year-old man underwent endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) for obstructive jaundice due to cancer of the pancreas (Fig. 1). SBDC was difficult because of instability of the papilla caused by a large oral protrusion (a long narrow distal segment was suspected) and softness of the supporting tissue around the papilla (Fig. 2). It was even difficult to insert a cannula into the pancreatic duct. To eliminate the instability of the papilla, the mucosa on the anal side of the papilla was fixed in two places using the novel clips. Counter-tension was applied by making the clipping direction parallel to the narrow distal segment (towards the anal side). The papilla was then fixed and the long narrow distal segment was stretched (Fig. 3), so that it became possible to easily place the guidewire in the pancreatic duct (Fig. 4; Video 1). SBDC was performed effortlessly using the DGT, and the treatment was completed.

Unlike conventional endoclips, the SureClip is a device that can be easily used for clipping even when the forceps elevator of the duodenoscope is lifted. Previous reports have shown that the visibility of an intradiverticular papilla was improved when endoclips were used [3–5], but this is the first report in which the papilla was fixed and a long narrow distal segment was stretched using this newly designed clipping system. This method is simple and useful in cases where the papilla is unstable.

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Fig. 1 Contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) scan showing cancer of the head of the pancreas and a dilated common bile duct.

Fig. 2 Endoscopic views showing a large oral protrusion (a suspected long narrow distal segment) and softness of the supporting tissue around the papilla, which made selective bile duct cannulation difficult because of instability of the papilla.

Fig. 3 Schema showing the course of the narrow distal segment in cases with a large oral protrusion and instability of the papilla, and how the narrow distal segment is changed using the novel clipping system.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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CORRIGENDUM

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In the above-mentioned article, the title and the text have been corrected.
To avoid unnecessary use of brand name, several instances of such use have been altered and the term “novel clipping device” was applied. This was corrected in the online version on December 17, 2021.