Resection of a tubular adenoma in the distal common bile duct through percutaneous choledochoscopy

A 59-year-old man was admitted to our hospital with a neoplasm in the distal common bile duct (▶ Fig. 1), which had been detected during laparoscopic exploration for biliary stone in a local hospital 2 months earlier. Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography showed a filling defect without invasion of surrounding organs (▶ Fig. 2). Combining the result of multidisciplinary discussion and the wishes of the patient, percutaneous choledoscopic treatment through the T-tube tract was performed for him (▶ Video 1).

After identification of the pedunculated neoplasm (▶ Fig. 3a), a hot snare was used to resect the lesion under direct visualization (▶ Fig. 3b). Then, a stone basket was used to extract the lesion (▶ Fig. 3c). The wound was clean and flat, without residual tumor (▶ Fig. 3d). The whole process took about 10 minutes and there was no complication. Pathologic analysis showed the neoplasm to be a tubular adenoma (▶ Fig. 4). With unknown malignant potential and the risk of causing obstructive jaundice, benign adenomas of the common bile duct are suggested to be treated by surgery at present time. However, the surgical procedure is extensive and complex. In recent years, peroral cholangioscopic procedures have been reported for treating benign neoplasms in the biliary tract, ensuring the minimum of injury and a good outcome [1]. As far as we know, the present case is the first report regarding percutaneous choledochoscopy for resection of a benign biliary neoplasm. Our experience indicates that percutaneous choledochoscopy could be an alternative for treatment of benign biliary tumors. Given the risk of recurrence of adenomas, regular follow-up is critical. The safety and effectiveness of this endoscopic method requires confirmation by further studies.

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Competing interests

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Fig. 3 a–d The process of resection. a The pedunculated neoplasm. b A hot snare was used to resect the lesion under direct visualization. c The resected specimen. d A clean and flat wound bed left after the resection.

Fig. 4 H&E staining indicated the lesion was tubular adenoma.