Endoscopic mucosal resection under gel immersion for superficial nonampullary duodenal epithelial neoplasms

Underwater endoscopic mucosal resection (UEMR) has been recently reported to be effective against superficial nonampullary duodenal epithelial neoplasms (SNADENs) [1]. Superficial lesions float up as protruding lesions under water. This facilitates snaring without submucosal injection and may reduce procedure-associated complications [2, 3]. However, there are some disadvantages to performing UEMR for SNADENs, including difficulty in maintaining a sufficient volume of water owing to anatomical features and gravity.

To overcome these disadvantages, we successfully applied the gel immersion technique, a novel method for securing the endoscopic visual field using gel of an appropriate viscosity (Viscoclear; Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc., Tokushima, Japan) [4]. Viscoclear can easily remain in the target region into which it is injected compared with water. We performed successful resection of SNADENs using the gel immersion technique (Video 1).

A 60-year-old man had a 12-mm SNADEN (macroscopic type 0-IIa) on the lower surface of the descending duodenum, which we considered an indication for UEMR (Fig. 1). However, the lumen could not be filled conventionally with water using a waterjet function (OFP-2; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). Therefore, we chose the gel immersion technique. First, intraluminal air was removed, and an auxiliary injection cap (BioShield irrigator; US Endoscopy, Ohio, USA) was used for the operative channel. Viscoclear (80 mL) was injected from an irrigation tube using a 50-mL syringe before EMR. Gel immersion permitted clear visualization, enabling quick filling of the lumen (Fig. 2). Then, the lesion was successfully and safely captured with an electrocautery snare (Fig. 3). En bloc resection was performed without perforation (Fig. 4), and the mucosal defect was completely closed using hemoclips (Fig. 5). The resected specimen was an adenoma and complete resection was confirmed.

EMR under gel immersion may be effective for SNADENs that are difficult to infiltrate conventionally with water.
The authors

Tatsuo Yachida1,2, Hideki Kobara1, Naoya Tada1, Noriko Nishiyama1 Tadayuki Takata1, Hisashi Masugata2, Tsutomu Masaki1
1 Department of Gastroenterology and Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, Kagawa University, Kagawa, Japan
2 Department of General Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Kagawa University, Kagawa, Japan

Corresponding author

Tatsuo Yachida, MD, PhD
Department of General Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Kagawa University, 1750-1 Ikenobe, Miki-cho, Kita-gun, Kagawa 761-0796, Japan
tyachida@med.kagawa-u.ac.jp

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.