Extramural extension of a buried over-the-scope clip in the stomach: an unusual adverse event

An 82-year-old woman with a 25-mm gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) in the gastric body (▶Fig. 1, ▶Fig. 2) underwent curative endoscopic submucosal enucleation. As the lesion originated deep within the gastric wall, a 15-mm full-thickness defect occurred (▶Fig. 3). The defect was completely sealed with the omental patch technique using one over-the-scope clip (OTSC) (11/6t; Ovesco Endoscopy, Tuebingen, Germany) and six through-the-scope clips (Meditalia, Italy) (▶Fig. 4). The patient remained asymptomatic after the procedure and was discharged home 2 days later.

A 6-month follow-up gastroscopy showed no recurrence of the GIST. However, the OTSC was found to be completely embedded within the gastric wall (▶Video 1). A computed tomography (CT) scan confirmed the transmural location of the OTSC and also showed its prominent extramural extension (▶Fig. 5).

The OTSC is a safe device with great efficacy in the treatment of acute gastrointestinal bleeding, perforations, leaks, and fistulas [1]. A recent systematic review analyzing >1500 cases in which an OTSC was used showed a 1.7% overall OTSC-related complication rate, with severe complications, mainly hemorrhage, stenosis, and perforation, occurring in 0.59% of cases. However, a buried OTSC was not mentioned [2]. Another systematic review reported the buried OTSC as a very rare adverse event that is the main cause of failure of endoscopic OTSC removal [3]. Currently, there are no previous reports of a buried OTSC with an extramural extension.

In the case described here, the buried OTSC may eventually leak out of the gastric wall and need surgery to be removed. In order to prevent this, endoscopic removal of the OTSC, although challenging, could be attempted. However, we pursued a conservative approach, as the patient remained asymptomatic, and her age and comorbidities represented significant risk factors for surgery should a complication occur during endoscopic OTSC removal.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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►Fig. 4 Sealed gastric wall defect with the omental patch technique using an over-the-scope clip.

►Fig. 5 Computed tomography scan image showing transmural location of the over-the-scope clip with prominent extramural extension.