Downstream balloon dilation technique for endoscopic removal of an impacted pancreatic duct stone after pancreatoduodenectomy

Endoscopic retrograde pancreatography is an established modality for the treatment of pancreatic duct stones [1,2]. Although it is technically challenging in patients with prior pancreatoduodenectomy [3,4], balloon-assisted endoscopic retrograde pancreatography and/or endoscopic ultrasound-guided pancreatic drainage has been increasingly utilized to manage pancreatic diseases in patients with surgically altered anatomy [5]. Here we report a simple and feasible technique for the endoscopic removal of an impacted pancreatic duct stone after pancreatoduodenectomy using a short-type single-balloon enteroscope.

A 61-year-old man, who underwent pylorus-preserving pancreatoduodenectomy with modified Child’s reconstruction three years earlier for pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor, was referred to our department for the treatment of acute pancreatitis. Contrast-enhanced computed tomography showed three radiopaque stones in the main duct; one of the three stones was impacted in the main pancreatic duct, resulting in obstructive pancreatitis (Fig. 1). Therefore, an endoscopic intervention was performed using a short-type single-balloon enteroscope (SIF-H290S; Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan) with a transparent hood. A tapered double-lumen catheter with a tip diameter of 3.6 Fr (Uneven Double Lumen Cannula Standard Type; Piolax Medical Devices, Kanagawa, Japan) was advanced through the pancreaticojejunal anastomosis, and a 0.025-inch guidewire (VisiGlide 2; Olympus Medical Systems) was placed into the pancreatic duct; however, the catheter could not pass through the impacted stone at all. After placing an additional guidewire, the section downstream of the stone was dilated with a 6-mm balloon catheter (REN; Kaneka Medix, Osaka, Japan) (Fig. 2a), and as the balloon deflated, the impacted stone moved downstream toward the balloon (Fig. 2b, Video 1).

Finally, the pancreatic stones were successfully retrieved by using a wire-guided basket catheter (TetraCatch V; Olympus Medical Systems) (Fig. 2c, Fig. 3). The downstream balloon dilation technique is simple and is worth a try when confronting impacted pancreatic duct stones.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Fig. 1 Contrast-enhanced computed tomography showed three radiopaque stones in the main duct; one of the three stones was impacted in the main pancreatic duct, resulting in obstructive pancreatitis.

Fig. 2 Fluoroscopic images. a An impacted pancreatic duct stone (arrow) during the downstream balloon dilation. b As the balloon deflated, the pancreatic duct stone (arrow) moved downstream toward the balloon. c The pancreatic stone was captured with a wire-guided basket catheter.
Video 1 Downstream balloon dilation technique for endoscopic removal of an impacted pancreatic duct stone after pancreateoduodenectomy.

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Fig. 3 Endoscopic view of pancreatic duct stones retrieved from the main pancreatic duct.