Electrohydraulic lithotripsy using peroral cholangioscopy for impaction of stent-stone complex around biliary plastic stent

A stent-stone complex is a rare complication of long-term placement of biliary plastic stents [1, 2]. Stones form around the proximal end of the stent, making endoscopic removal of the stent difficult. Herein we report a case of successful endoscopic removal of a stent-stone complex using peroral cholangioscopy-guided electrohydraulic lithotripsy (EHL). An 80-year-old woman was referred to our hospital for treatment of large bile duct stones (35 mm) (Fig. 1). Peroral cholangioscopy-guided EHL was performed; however, stones could not be completely removed, and a plastic stent was placed (Fig. 2). Two months after peroral cholangioscopy-guided EHL, a 30-mm stent-stone complex formed (Fig. 3a). We attempted to remove the stent-stone complex with grasping forceps; however, it could not be moved, and the plastic stent broke off at the grasping site (Fig. 3b). We performed EHL again under peroral cholangioscopy (SpyScope DS II; Boston Scientific, Tokyo, Japan) for stent-stone complex extraction (Video 1). A stent-stone complex resembling a lollipop was observed in the distal bile duct (Fig. 3c). The stone was fixed by the stent; this allowed the shock waves to be applied efficiently. The time taken to crush the stones around the plastic stent was approximately 10 min. The stones were then removed using a balloon catheter (Fig. 3d). Balloon cholangiography after stone evacuation confirmed complete removal of the stones (Fig. 3e). The patient recovered without cholangitis or bile duct stone recurrence.

Endoscopic removal of a stent-stone complex is difficult, and forcible extraction of a large stent-stone complex can cause papillary injury or biliary perforation. Further, surgery for a stent-stone complex is considered unnecessary because the stent prevents bile leakage from the biliary system.

Fig. 1  Computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) images before the procedures. a Coronal view on CT showed a large stone in the common bile duct. b MRCP showed a defect suggestive of a 32-mm stone at the junction of the cystic duct and the common bile duct.

Fig. 2  The first electrohydraulic lithotripsy (EHL) under endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). a ERCP showed a huge translucent filling defect in the common bile duct. b, c The presence of a yellow stone was confirmed by cholangioscopy and EHL was performed. d After EHL, the stones were removed with a balloon catheter; however, it was difficult to remove them completely.
complex [3,4] is highly invasive. In this case, EHL under peroral cholangioscopy efficiently crushed the stent-stone complex because the plastic stent served as an anchor. We believe that peroral cholangioscopy-guided EHL is an extremely useful method for stent-stone complex removal.

Video 1 The procedure of electrohydraulic lithotripsy using peroral cholangioscopy for removal of a stent-stone complex.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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E-Videos
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