

An unusual malignant main bile duct stricture: a biliary metastasis of endometrial adenocarcinoma.

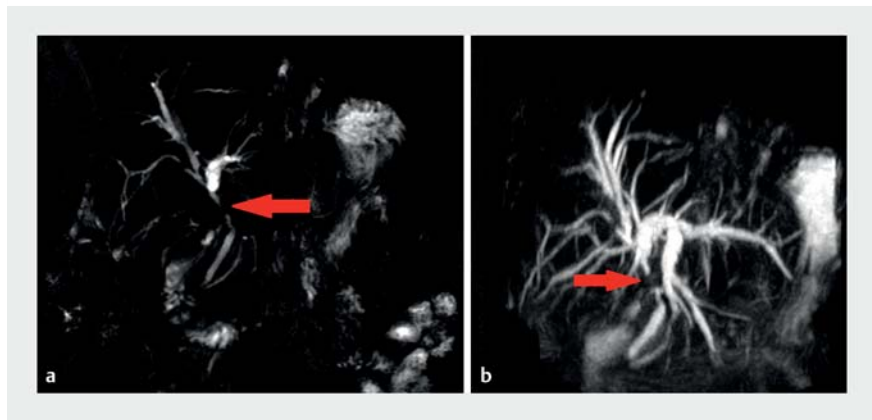


Biliary strictures are frequently encountered in interventional endoscopy. Their etiological diagnosis may be complicated [1]. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) guided biopsies, brush cytology, and wire-guided biopsies allow a diagnosis in most cases. Single-operator cholangioscopy (SOC) has radically changed the diagnostic approach, allowing visualization of the lesion, endoscopic characterization, and targeted biopsies [2].

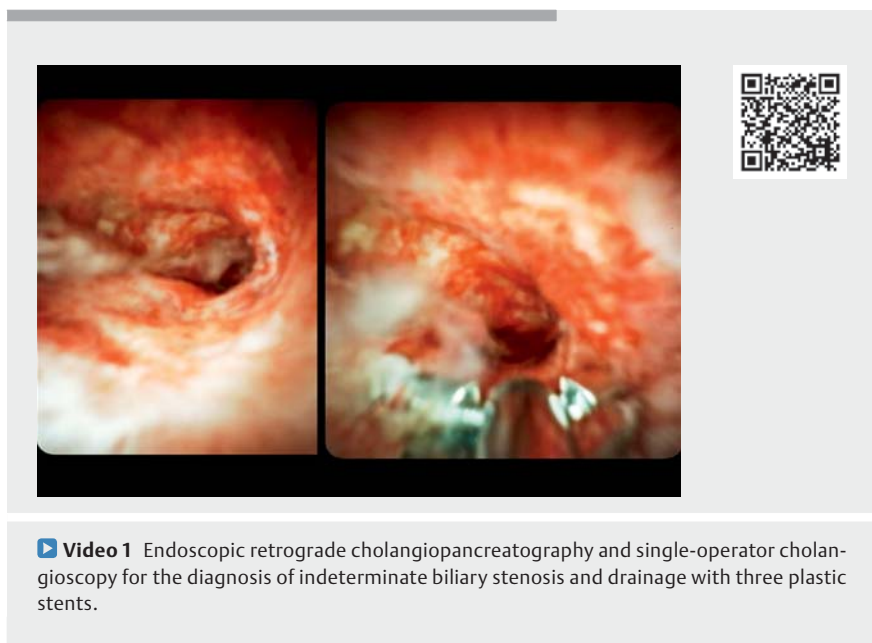
We report the case of a 71-year-old woman with a history of endometrial adenocarcinoma, with muscular and bone recurrence 4 years after treatment. She developed a sudden jaundice without any other clinical signs. A magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography found a circumferential parietal thickening of the main bile duct with dilatation of the intrahepatic bile ducts (► **Fig. 1**). We decided to perform an EUS, which showed extensive cholangitis in the middle part of the bile duct with circumferential thickening of the bile duct mucosa. A 22 G needle biopsy was performed. Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) was then performed (► **Fig. 2**) with SOC, which showed that the strictured area was indeed a fibrous stenosis with anarchic vascularization (► **Video 1**).

Biopsies were taken with forceps. Brush cytology and wire-guided biopsies were also performed. The procedure was completed with the placement of three plastic stents (one 15 cm and 8.5 Fr stent in the left bile duct; one 12 cm and 8.5 Fr stent and one 12 cm and 7 Fr stent in the right intrahepatic bile ducts). Histological examination found carcinoma cells (mutated p53, PAX8 +), which were presumed to be metastasis of gynecological origin (► **Fig. 3**).

The use of SOC allows a finer analysis of indeterminate biliary stenosis. The presence of aberrant vascularization seems to be correlated with the neoplastic



► **Fig. 1** Biliary magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography imaging (MRCP) showing the main bile duct stricture with dilatation of the intrahepatic bile ducts. **a** MRCP sequence showing the biliary stricture (red arrow) and biliary dilatation. **b** Three-dimensional reconstruction of the biliary system showing the biliary stenosis (red arrow).



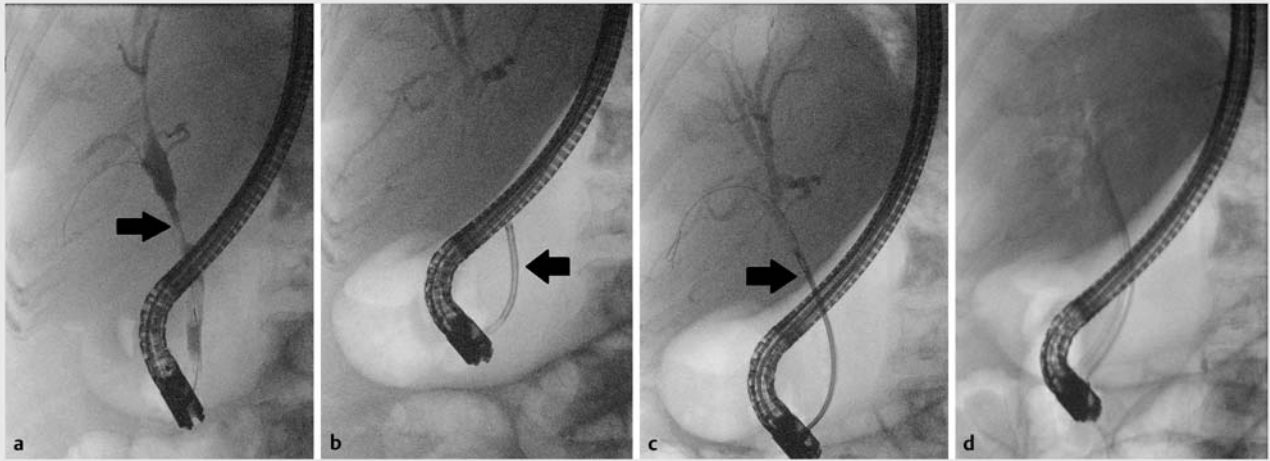
► **Video 1** Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography and single-operator cholangioscopy for the diagnosis of indeterminate biliary stenosis and drainage with three plastic stents.

nature of the lesion [3]. SOC therefore allows macroscopic analysis of the lesion and targeted biopsies, probably making biliary sampling less random [4, 5].

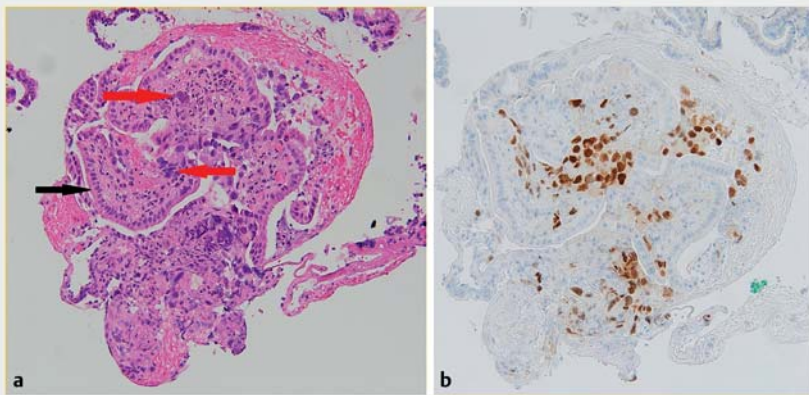
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Acknowledgement

This work was supported by French state funds managed within the "Plan Investissements d'Avenir" and by the ANR (reference ANR-10-IAHU-02).



► **Fig. 2** Retrograde cholangiography showing the different stages of the endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography procedure. **a** Retrograde cholangiography showing the stricture of the main bile duct (black arrow). **b** Retrograde cholangiography with single-operator cholangioscopy (black arrow). **c** Retrograde cholangiography with wire-guided forceps (black arrow). **d** Placement of three plastic biliary stents.



► **Fig. 3** Biopsies of the main bile duct under single-operator cholangioscopy. **a** Normal biliary epithelium (black arrow) and neoplastic cells (red arrows) with hematoxylin-eosin stain (magnification $\times 200$). **b** Neoplastic cells of gynecological origin with immunohistochemistry stain (PAX 8).

- 3 Department of Pathology, HUS, Strasbourg, France
- 4 Department of Endoscopy and Hepatogastroenterology, Pavillon L, Edouard Herriot Hospital, Lyon, France
- 5 Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Centre Hospitalier de Roubaix, Roubaix, France
- 6 Department of Digestive Surgery, Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplantation, CHU Tours, Tours, France
- 7 Inserm U1110, Institute for Viral and Liver Diseases, LabEx HepSYS, University of Strasbourg, Faculty of Medicine, Strasbourg, France

Corresponding author

Pierre Mayer, MD

Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Pôle Hépatodigestif, Nouvel Hôpital Civil, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg (HUS), 1 place de l'Hôpital, 67000 Strasbourg, France
 pierre-emmanuel.mayer@chru-strasbourg.fr

Funding

Agence Nationale de la Recherche ANR-10-IAHU-02

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Pierre Mayer^{1,2}, **Lucile Héroin**^{1,2}, **Gerlinde Averous**³, **Mathieu Pioche**⁴, **Gabriel Lepeut**⁵, **Emanuele Felli**⁶, **François Habersetzer**^{1,2,7}

- 1 Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Pôle Hépatodigestif, Nouvel Hôpital Civil, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg (HUS), Strasbourg, France
- 2 IHU-Strasbourg (Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire), Strasbourg, France

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Endoscopy 2022; 54: E992–E994

DOI 10.1055/a-1884-9055

ISSN 0013-726X

published online 4.8.2022

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