Contralateral gallbladder perforation and hemoperitoneum caused by an electrocautery-enhanced lumen-apposing metal stent during endoscopic ultrasound-guided gallbladder drainage

Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided gallbladder drainage (GBD) is an effective rescue therapy for biliary drainage after failed endoscopic retrograde cholangio-pancreatography (ERCP) for unresectable malignant distal bile duct obstruction [1]. The use of the electrocautery-enhanced lumen-apposing metal stent (EC-LAMS) has been demonstrated to be safe and highly effective for EUS-GBD, and facilitates a single-step procedure [2].

An 83-year-old man was admitted to our hospital with malignant distal bile duct obstruction. Repeated attempts at ERCP were unsuccessful. Percutaneous transhepatic gallbladder drainage (PTGD) was performed following a complication of biliary peritonitis. The patient was deemed a poor surgical candidate due to advanced age and cardiorespiratory comorbidities. EUS-guided biliary drainage (EUS-BD) was not feasible considering the limited diameter of the bile duct after PTGD drainage. Therefore, EUS-GBD was performed using EC-LAMS (Video 1).

Under EUS guidance, the EC-LAMS (Hot Axios, 15 mm × 10 mm in diameter; Boston Scientific, Marlborough, Massachusetts, USA) was used to puncture the neck of the gallbladder via the transduodenal route. However, the endosonographic view was obscured due to coagulation artefacts, and the contralateral gallbladder neck was also accidentally penetrated by the electrocautery tip (Fig. 1), resulting in the perforation of the gallbladder, bile leakage, and extra-luminal bleeding.

The EC-LAMS was pulled back into the gallbladder immediately and deployed in the correct position. A dilation balloon was used to dilate the electrocautery-enhanced lumen-apposing metal stent (EC-LAMS) up to 11.5 mm (Fig. 2), which allowed a therapeutic gastroscope (GIF-Q260J; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) to pass through the stent into the gallbladder. Endoscopic inspection revealed blood clots in the gallbladder (Fig. 3), obscuring the endoscopic view. An endoscopic snare was used to remove the blood clots, exposing the perforation of the gallbladder wall (Fig. 4). Endoscopic closure of the perforation was performed using through-the-scope clips (Fig. 5).

After the procedure, the patient developed abdominal bleeding and peritonitis, and received percutaneous peritoneal...
drainage, blood transfusions (4 units, suspension of red blood cells), and antibiotics. Percutaneous peritoneal drainage decreased gradually, and abdominal pain was relieved after conservative treatment without laparotomy. The patient was discharged after removing the PTGD and abdominal drainage tube 7 days later.

Adverse events following EUS-GBD include bleeding, stent migration, capnoperitoneum, and stent occlusion, with the reporting rates between 8 % and 18 % [3]. The current case illustrates a rare adverse event of EUS-GBD. Perforation of the contralateral gallbladder wall was caused by the electrocautery tip of the EC-LAMS during EUS-GBD. Coagulation artefacts may obscure the endosonographic view even if pure cutting current is used. Therefore, care should be taken to identify the electrocautery tip under EUS guidance during the procedure. EC-LAMS used in EUS-GBD allowed endoscopic gallbladder inspection and closure of the gallbladder perforation through the stent. Successful endoscopic salvage treatment obviated the need for emergency surgery.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CPL_1AL_2AD

Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Jiayi Su*, Chuntao Liu*, Peng Li1, Jing Wu1
Department of Gastroenterology, Capital Medical University Affiliated Beijing Friendship Hospital, Beijing, China

Corresponding author

Jing Wu, MD
Department of Gastroenterology, Capital Medical University Affiliated Beijing Friendship Hospital, Yongan Road, Xicheng District, Beijing 100050, China
wujing36youyi@ccmu.edu.cn

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Endoscopy
DOI 10.1055/a-1929-9259
ISSN 0013-726X
published online 2022
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* These authors contributed equally to this work.