A 72-year-old woman presented with a 2-month history of jaundice and abdominal pain. A computed tomography scan revealed a large mass in the pancreatic head with dilated bile ducts. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided fine-needle biopsy (FNB) and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography were scheduled for tissue acquisition and jaundice resolution.

The EUS was performed under general anesthesia using a linear echoendoscope (GF-UCT140; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) with carbon dioxide insufflation. A neoplastic infiltration of the duodenal bulb (Mutignani type I [1]) was observed. However, during the advancing maneuvers of the echoendoscope toward the duodenum, we detected a full-thickness, round-shaped defect, of 14 mm in diameter, in the gastric lesser curvature, with direct access into the peritoneal cavity (▶Fig. 1, ▶Video 1).

A gastroscope preloaded with an over-the-scope (OTS) clip (14/6t) was immediately used to close the iatrogenic perforation, with margin apposition and subsequent restoration of intraluminal distension (▶Fig. 2).

EUS-FNB of the pancreatic lesion was then performed and a duodenal uncovered self-expandable metal stent was deployed over-the-wire across the stricture. A trans-stent duodenoscopy was carefully performed and, under fluoroscopy, sphincterotomy was attempted multiple times without successful cannulation of the biliary ducts.

Finally, under EUS and radiologic guidance, an EUS-guided choledochoduodenostomy was performed using a 10×20 mm electrocautery-enhanced lumen-apposing metal stent (Hot Spaxus; Tae-woong Medical, Gimpo-si, South Korea) (▶Fig. 3).

A broad-spectrum antibiotic was administered for 7 days and the patient was asymptomatic at the 3-month follow-up, with a progressive drop in bilirubin. Although rare, iatrogenic gastric perforation is a critical complication of EUS and may be fatal in elderly patients and those with neoplasia, especially if not recognized rapidly [2]. Immediate diagnosis is crucial and, even if technically demanding, the intraprocedural application of minimally invasive endoscopic treatment is feasible and safe, reducing the necessity for urgent surgery and its complication-related morbidity and mortality. Moreover, the completion of the required
procedure should be always pursued in order to avoid delayed diagnosis and potential medicolegal issues.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Roberto Di Mitri, Michele Amata, Filippo Mocciaro, Ambra Bonaccorso, Elisabetta Conte, Barbara Scivo, Daniela Scimeca
Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit, ARNAS Civico – Di Cristina – Benfratelli Hospital, Palermo, Italy

Corresponding author

Michele Amata, MD
Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit, ARNAS Civico – Di Cristina – Benfratelli Hospital, Piazza Nicola Leotta 4, 901200 Palermo, Italy
michele.amata@gmail.com

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