

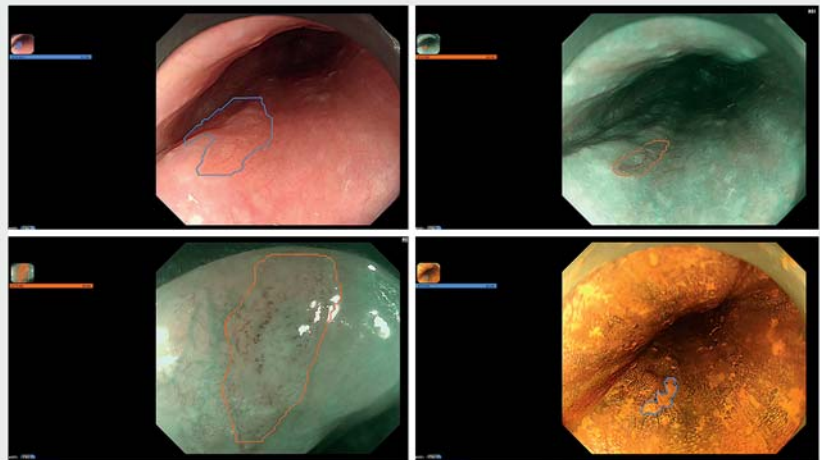
Artificial intelligence for detecting and delineating a small flat-type early esophageal squamous cell carcinoma under multimodal imaging



Early diagnosis of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) is crucial for improving its prognosis. Effective endoscopic biopsy is key to ensuring no missed diagnoses or misdiagnosis of lesions occur and accurate delineation of the margins of lesions is essential for effective biopsies. Recently, the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the endoscopic diagnosis of early ESCC has increased; however, most AI systems identified early ESCC with rough square frames [1–3]. For the purpose of precise lesion segmentation, we have developed a new AI system, based on a state-of-the-art algorithm called the YOLACT model [4], that integrates multiple endoscopic imaging modalities to detect and delineate the margins of early ESCC in real time.

The AI system was successfully integrated into the endoscopy equipment. The upper left section of the endoscopy monitor showed the current endoscopic imaging modality and the probability score of suspected early ESCC. In this video demonstration, we show that the AI system not only correctly identified each endoscopic imaging modality, but also accurately detected and delineated the margin of a flat-type mucosal cancer with a size of approximately 3 mm under white-light imaging and narrow-band imaging, with or without magnifying endoscopy and iodine staining (► **Fig. 1**; ► **Video 1**). Histopathology of the endoscopically resected specimen showed an early ESCC with invasion of the lamina propria (► **Fig. 2**).

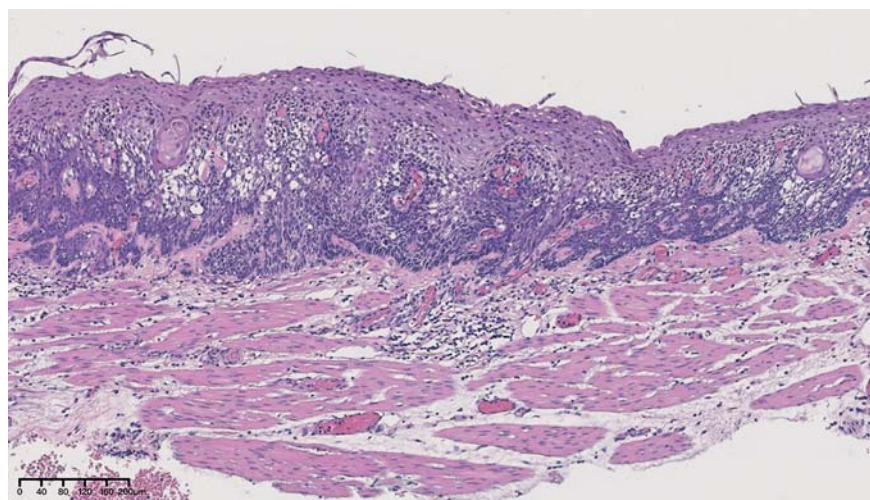
Detecting and delineating subtle early ESCC with AI systems is challenging. To our knowledge, this is the first report of the use of an AI system to detect and de-



► **Fig. 1** Example images of the artificial intelligence system accurately detecting and delineating a small flat-type mucosal cancer under four endoscopic imaging modalities. ECA-WLE, esophageal carcinoma under white-light endoscopy; ECA-NBI, esophageal carcinoma under narrow-band imaging; ECA-IOD, esophageal carcinoma following iodine staining.



► **Video 1** The artificial intelligence system is used to detect and delineate early esophageal squamous cell carcinoma in a real-life setting.



► **Fig. 2** Histopathological appearance of the specimen showing an early esophageal squamous cell carcinoma invading the lamina propria.

early esophageal squamous cell cancer (with video). *Dig Endosc* 2021; 33: 1075–1084

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lineate a small flat-type early ESCC under multimodal imaging in real time during clinical endoscopy. Unlike with other previously reported AI systems, which require a separate monitor, the proposed AI system was directly connected to an endoscopy monitor commonly used by endoscopists, meaning there is no need for a change in their operating habits, so making our AI system more suitable for clinical use.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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