The “zipline” technique for endoscopic removal of a migrated pancreatic stent

Prophylactic placement of a pancreatic stent can reduce post-endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) pancreatitis (PEP), but it entails the risk of several adverse events including stent migration [1]. Endoscopic removal of a migrated stent is technically challenging because limited devices are available for use in the small and tortuous pancreatic duct [2]. Here, we present a case in which the “zipline” technique enabled successful removal of a pancreatic stent that had totally migrated into the pancreatic duct.

An 82-year-old man with a history of distal pancreatectomy underwent biliary stent placement for a biliary stricture due to eosinophilic cholangitis. During the initial ERCP session, a 5-Fr straight-type pancreatic stent was placed prophylactically. However, severe PEP occurred when the stent migrated into the pancreatic duct (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). After the patient was referred to our department, we first attempted to remove the migrated stent with biopsy forceps 2 alongside the guidewire, but this failed. Additional attempts with over-the-wire devices such as a snare and a tapered balloon catheter were unsuccessful even though the guidewire was inserted through the migrated stent. Finally, the “zipline"
technique using a hand-made wire-guided biopsy forceps (Radial Jaw 4 pediatric; Boston Scientific) provided success in removing the stent (▶ Fig. 3, ▶ Video 1), and the PEP subsided thereafter. Since the Radial Jaw forceps has two small holes on both jaw cups, it can be used as a wire-guided forceps when a looped nylon thread is attached to a cup (▶ Fig. 4). With this wire-guided forceps, the “zipline” technique has enabled targeted biliary biopsy and removal of a migrated biliary stent [3, 4]. Among the various techniques for endoscopic removal of migrated stents [5], the “zipline” technique is an inexpensive, easy-to-use method which can be widely utilized since it requires no special device other than one nylon thread. Thus, it can be an option for endoscopic removal of a migrated pancreatic duct stent once the guidewire has been successfully inserted into the migrated stent.

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Competing interests

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The authors

Kohei Kurihara¹, Naminatsu Takahara³, Tsuyoshi Hamada¹,², Sachiko Kanai¹, Ryunosuke Hakuta¹,², Yousuuke Nakai¹,², Mitsuhiro Fujishiro¹,²

1 Department of Gastroenterology, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

2 Department of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Medicine, The Cancer Institute Hospital of Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, Tokyo, Japan

3 Department of Endoscopy and Endoscopic Surgery, The University of Tokyo Hospital, Tokyo, Japan

Corresponding author

Yousuuke Nakai, MD, PhD
Department of Endoscopy and Endoscopic Surgery, The University of Tokyo Hospital, 7-3-1, Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 113-8655, Japan
ynakai-tky@umin.ac.jp

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