Underwater clipping in the colon

Clipping closure of large mucosal defects in the gastrointestinal tract can be difficult and time consuming, and sometimes requires many clips as the mucosa surrounding the defect stretches following endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR). Techniques utilizing the underwater method have been increasingly used in various endoscopic procedures [1–3]. Its application in clipping has been reported in large colonic and duodenal endoscopic submucosal dissection [4]. Here, we demonstrate the use of underwater clipping after EMR in the colon (Video 1).

A 72-year-old man underwent a screening colonoscopy in which a 15-mm sessile elevated polyp (laterally spreading tumor, nongranular type) was discovered in the ascending colon (Fig. 1). Narrow-band imaging revealed adenoma with no invasive findings (Fig. 2). En bloc underwater EMR was performed using a bipolar snare (Dragonare; Zeon Medical Inc., Tokyo, Japan) (Fig. 3). After the defect had been examined, and confirmation had been obtained with carbon dioxide that there was no perforation, the lumen was filled with saline. The tension of the mucosa around the defect decreased and the mucosa floated (Fig. 4). The defect size decreased, making it easier to catch the mucosa with the clips (SureClip; Micro-Tech, Nanjing, China). The defect was completely closed with four clips (Fig. 5). Underwater clipping was easier than the conventional under-gas method; it reduced both the procedure time and the number of clips.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Video 1 Underwater clipping after colonic polypectomy in a 72-year-old man.

Fig. 1 A 15-mm sessile elevated polyp (laterally spreading tumor, nongranular type) in the ascending colon of a 72-year-old man.

Fig. 2 Narrow-band imaging of the polyp.

Fig. 3 Mucosal defect after endoscopic mucosal resection.
The authors

Shunsuke Yamamoto1, Adolfo Parra-Blanco2
1 Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, National Hospital Organization Osaka National Hospital, Osaka, Japan
2 NHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre, Department of Gastroenterology, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

Corresponding author

Shunsuke Yamamoto, MD, PhD, FJGES
2-1-14 Houenzaka, Chuo-ku, Osaka, 540-0006, Japan
shun0515suke@gmail.com

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Fig. 4 The size of the defect decreased in the water.

Fig. 5 The defect was completely closed with four clips.