A novel dedicated nonslip short-length balloon catheter for treating hepaticojejunostomy anastomotic stricture in balloon enteroscopy-assisted ERCP

Hepaticojejunostomy anastomotic strictures (HJASs) often occur as an adverse event after biliary reconstructive surgery [1]. Balloon stricture dilation via balloon enteroscopy-assisted endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (BE-ERCP) is a standard treatment for HJAS [2]; however, there is no dedicated balloon catheter for HJAS treatment. Conventional papillary/bile duct dilation balloons are generally used, but they are often too long for HJASs. Long balloons can unnecessarily expand the normal intrahepatic bile duct and require there to be sufficient distance between the anastomotic site and the tip of the scope, which can be challenging to achieve. In contrast, short balloons tend to slip during inflation, especially during BE-ERCP because of the absence of a forceps elevator.

To address these problems, a novel, dedicated balloon catheter (RIGEL Balloon Dilatation Catheter; Japan Lifeline Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) has been developed (Fig.1), which has a very short balloon, measuring 15 mm, and an elastic band attached in the middle. The central part expands with a delay, preventing slippage.

An 88-year-old woman who had undergone pancreaticoduodenectomy developed cholangitis. A short-type single-balloon enteroscope was inserted, and the HJAS was detected. After inserting a guidewire through the stricture, we inserted the 8-mm diameter novel balloon catheter over the guidewire. The central part of the novel balloon expanded with an appropriate delay during inflation, achieving full expansion without slippage, while maintaining a position close to the anastomosis.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AP_2AD

Endoscopic images showing: a the novel balloon inserted and positioned with its center at the stricture after biliary cannulation through the hepaticojejunostomy anastomotic stricture had been performed during short-type single-balloon enteroscopy; b expansion of the center of the novel balloon after an appropriate delay, which allows full expansion without slippage, while maintaining a position close to the anastomosis.
Conflict of Interest

T. Inoue has received honoraria from Japan LifeLine Co., Ltd. M. Ibusuki, R. Kitano, and K. Ito declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Endoscopy 2023; 55: E1266–E1267
DOI 10.1055/a-2218-3193
ISSN 0013-726X
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