A 67-year-old-woman was referred because of failure to locate the papilla of Va
ter on endoscopic retrograde cholangio-
pancreatography (ERCP). The patient had
undergone cholecystectomy several years
ago, and presently she had been diag-
nosed as having common bile duct stones
that were causing colicky pain. A repeat
ERCP revealed a duodenal diverticulum
in the region where the papilla was ex-
pected to be (Fig. 1).

It was thought that the papillary orifice
was hidden within the diverticulum. Sev-
eral maneuvers were tried to evert the pa-
pilla, such as using two devices simulta-
neously [1] around the entire rim of the
diverticulum, but without success. Thus
the duodenoscope was withdrawn and an
ultrathin gastroscope inserted (Pentax
EG-1870K, Pentax, Tokyo, Japan) with an
outer diameter of 6 mm. The diverticulum
was carefully intubated and explored
(Fig. 2) but the papillary orifice was still
not found.

Consequently, the inner surface of the
diverticulum border was thoroughly ex-
amined. The ultrathin gastroscope was
passed several times around the border
of the diverticulum toward the duodenal
lumen in an attempt to evert the rim and
locate the papillary orifice. Finally the or-
ifice was found on the left side of the diver-
ticulum border in the endoscopic view.
The ultrathin gastroscope was withdrawn
and the duodenoscope reinserted. Biliary
cannulation was accomplished in a stand-
ard fashion (Fig. 3).

ERCP confirmed the presence of stones in
the common bile duct (Fig. 4).

Because of the altered regional anatomy,
only a small biliary sphincterotomy could
be carried out and balloon dilatation up to
18 mm was done, and the stones extract-
ed. No complications occurred after the
intervention.

Ultrathin endoscopes are increasingly
used for many purposes [2] besides unse-
dated upper endoscopy [3]; their use in
ERCP and biliary procedures has been also
reported [4, 5]. In the present case, the ul-
trathin endoscope allowed thorough and
safe inspection from within the duodenal
diverticulum as well as therapeutic ERCP.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AR_2AB

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García-Cano J. Exposing a hidden papilla within a duodenal diverticulum... Endoscopy 2010; 42: E96–E97
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Endoscopy 2010; 42: E96 – E97
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