A double common bile duct is an extremely rare anomaly of the biliary tract system, which was first described by Vesalius in 1543 [1]. Recent advances in radiologic examinations have facilitated the correct diagnosis and management of this condition, but visualization of the anomaly using cholangioscopy has not been reported [2]. We report the finding of a double common bile duct with ectopic drainage into the duodenal bulb, which was successfully visualized using the SpyGlass cholangioscope (Boston Scientific, Natick, Massachusetts, USA).

A 69-year-old man was referred to our institution for endoscopic treatment of cholecaldocholithiasis and a duodenal stricture of unknown origin. First, a duodenoscope was advanced into the second portion of the duodenum after a balloon dilation of the stricture had been performed. Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) revealed multiple common bile duct stones and an aberrant bile duct opening into the duodenal bulb (Fig. 1). After the stones had been successfully removed by endoscopic papillary balloon dilation, a SpyGlass cholangioscope was advanced into the ectopic bile duct. Cholangioscopic imaging revealed normal bile duct mucosa (Inset: View during SpyGlass cholangioscopy showing normal mucosa). Finally, duodenoscopy revealed a slightly depressed lesion adjacent to the duodenal stricture (Fig. 3); this was confirmed after injection of contrast to be the ectopic opening of the double bile duct (Fig. 4). It is possible that the duodenal stricture may have been caused by continuous exposure to the bile from the ectopic opening. He was diagnosed as having a type II double common bile duct according to the Goor’s classification [3].

Preoperative diagnosis of a double common bile duct is not easy because of its rarity [4]. SpyGlass cholangioscopy has been reported to be a feasible management of various pancreatobiliary diseases [5]. In this case it enabled us to examine the double bile duct precisely and distinguish the ectopic bile duct from a bilioenteric fistula. SpyGlass cholangioscopy is a useful technique for the correct diagnosis of double common bile duct.

Competing interests: None
References

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Bibliography

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