Using a gastroscope to accomplish ERCP: a forward-viewing endoscope for cannulation of the intradiverticular papilla

A 68-year-old man was admitted to our hospital with right upper quadrant pain and jaundice. Laboratory studies revealed leukocytosis, elevated liver enzymes, and hyperbilirubinemia. Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography examination revealed distal bile duct stenosis. On duodenoscopy, the papilla was hidden within a diverticulum. We tried using two devices simultaneously to perform endoclip-assisted biliary cannulation but without success (Fig. 1a). Thus, the duodenoscope was withdrawn and a gastroscope (GIF Q260; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) was inserted. Cannulation of the pancreatic duct was achieved but deep access of the common bile duct remained impossible (Fig. 1b). A pancreatic duct plastic stent was then inserted to facilitate biliary cannulation [1]. Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) confirmed the distal biliary stricture (Fig. 1c). The patient was treated with balloon dilation (Fig. 1d). The patient was discharged 3 days after the procedure without any complications. The forward-viewing endoscope for ERCP has been used frequently in patients with Billroth II gastrectomy and Roux-en-Y anastomosis [2, 3]. To our knowledge, this is the first report describing the use of a gastroscope to perform ERCP in a patient with periampullary diverticula. Garcia-Cano [4] also described their experience of using an ultrathin gastroscope to locate a papilla hidden within a duodenal diverticulum; they then used a duodenoscope to cannulate the bile duct. Alternatively, using the forward-viewing endoscope for ERCP could provide excellent visualization and positioning in patients whose papilla was not observed in the normal location. The forward-viewing endoscope can be recommended for ERCP in such patients.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AR_2AB

Competing interests: None

Yun Qian, Jin Huang, Yin Zhang, Li Mei Ma, Zhi Ning Fan

Institute of Digestive Endoscopy, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0033-1359194
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E139
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart - New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Zhi Ning Fan, MD, PhD
Institute of Digestive Endoscopy
The Second Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University
Nanjing
Jiangsu Province 210011
China
Fax: +86-25-58509931
fanzhining@hotmail.com
775687550@qq.com