A novel technique for partial stent-in-stent placement of three metal biliary stents using a short double-balloon enteroscope

The endoscopic partial stent-in-stent (PSIS) placement of self-expandable metal stents (SEMSs) is effective for the palliation of malignant hilar biliary strictures [1–5]. Despite its efficacy, however, PSIS placement is technically challenging, especially when placing second or subsequent stents. We report a novel technique for PSIS placement of three SEMSs using a short double-balloon enteroscope (DBE), which was used in a patient with a malignant hilar biliary stricture and surgically altered anatomy.

A 74-year-old man who had undergone distal gastrectomy with Billroth II reconstruction was admitted with jaundice due to cholangiocarcinoma with a Bismuth type IV hilar biliary stricture (Fig. 1a). To aid biliary drainage, we placed a 7-Fr plastic stent in the left hepatic duct, another in the right posterior hepatic duct, and a third in the right anterior hepatic duct using a short DBE (EI-530B; Fujifilm, Tokyo; working channel, 2.8-mm diameter). Although this led to immediate resolution of the patient’s jaundice, we diagnosed unresectable cholangiocarcinoma and therefore went on to perform PSIS placement of three SEMSs (Zilver 635; Cook Medical, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA) using the DBE before the patient commenced chemotherapy.

First, the stricture was dilated (Quantum, 6-mm diameter; Cook Medical) then, to identify the bifurcation of the common hepatic duct and the target bile duct, two 0.018-inch landmark guidewires (Roadrunner; Cook Medical) were inserted into the right posterior hepatic duct and the right anterior hepatic duct [1,2]. The first SEMS (10-mm diameter, 80-mm long) was then placed into the left hepatic duct over a stiff 0.035-inch guidewire (THSF; Cook Medical) using a small-diameter (6-Fr), 200-cm-long delivery system, while keeping the two landmark guidewires in the right anterior and posterior hepatic ducts (Fig. 1b).

Next, a 0.035-inch hydrophilic guidewire (NaviPro; Boston Scientific, Natick, Massachusetts, USA) was easily inserted into the right posterior hepatic duct through the stricture and the interstices of the first SEMS following the landmark guidewire (Fig. 1c). A second SEMS (10-mm diameter, 60-mm long) was then successfully placed in the right posterior hepatic duct using a stiff guidewire that had been exchanged for the hydrophilic guidewire (Fig. 1d). The third SEMS (10-mm diameter, 60-mm long) was then placed over a guidewire passing through the interstices of the two previous stents and into the right anterior hepatic duct, over which the third stent was placed (Fig. 1e).

Fig. 1 Cholangiographic views using a short double-balloon enteroscope showing: a a Bismuth type IV malignant hilar biliary obstruction; b the two landmark guidewires in the right anterior and posterior hepatic ducts and the first stent, which was placed across the bifurcation into the left hepatic duct; c a 0.035-inch hydrophilic guidewire passing into the right posterior hepatic duct through the stricture and the interstices of the first stent; d the second stent in the right posterior hepatic duct; e a guidewire passing through the interstices of the two previous stents and into the right anterior hepatic duct, over which the third stent was placed; f the three Zilver 635 stents forming a partial stent-in-stent arrangement.
into the right anterior hepatic duct over a guidewire that had been passed in similar fashion through the interstices of the two previous stents (Fig. 1 e, f). Therefore, the combined use of the 6-Fr Zilver 635 SEMSs [5] and 0.018-inch landmark guidewires facilitated the PSIS placement of multiple SEMSs for malignant hilar biliary stricture using a short DBE with a small working channel.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AR_2AZ

Competing interests: None

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1377408
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E417–E418
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

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