Successful placement of a fully covered esophageal stent to bridge a difficult-to-close mucosal incision during peroral endoscopic myotomy

Closure of the mucosal entry during peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) can be achieved using standard clips in most cases, but on rare occasions clip closure may not be possible. Alternative salvage methods for closure have been described, including the over-the-scope clip [1,2] and an endoluminal suturing device [3]. We report the first POEM case in which a fully covered stent was used to seal a mucosal incision that was difficult to close.

An 83-year-old man with severe achalasia (Eckardt 9) [4] underwent POEM as described previously [5]. The esophagus was severely dilated and the mucosa was inflamed, presumably from food stasis (Fig. 1). The inverted, friable, and edematous edges of the mucosal incision prevented adequate apposition, despite several attempts at closure using different standard clips (Resolution Clip, Boston Scientific, Natick, Massachusetts, United States; Instinct Clip, Cook Endoscopy, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, United States). In total, placement of 18 clips was attempted without success.

The clips were removed and an over-the-scope clip (Ovesco Endoscopy AG, Tübingen, Germany) was deployed, approximating three-quarters of the incision. How-
ever, given the persistent mucosal breach, a fully covered 23×120-mm esophageal stent (EndoMaxx; Merit Medical Endotek, South Jordan, Utah, United States) was placed to seal the remaining gap (Fig. 2). Complete healing of the incision was noted on repeat esophagogastroduodenoscopy for stent removal 6 weeks following the procedure (Fig. 3).

Stent placement for distal esophageal mucosal perforation has been described in a pediatric POEM case [6], but this is the first report on the successful use of a covered esophageal stent to bridge a difficult-to-close mucosal incision. By successfully closing the incision with the stent, the serious complications associated with leakage of esophageal contents into the mediastinum and potential surgery were prevented. Esophageal stenting is feasible and should be considered as a salvage method for closure of mucosal entry incision in POEM.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AO_2AZ

Competing interests: None

Dennis Yang, Qing Zhang, Peter V. Draganov
Division of Gastroenterology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, United States

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Corresponding author
Peter V. Draganov, MD
Division of Gastroenterology
University of Florida
1600 SW Archer Road, Room HD 602
Gainesville, FL 32610
United States
Fax: +1-352-392-3618
peter.draganov@medicine.ufl.edu

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1377547
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E467–E468
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Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Fig. 3 Esophagogastroduodenoscopy following stent removal. The mucosal entry had healed, with granulation tissue present. The previously placed over-the-scope clip was seen; this was removed at the end of the procedure.