Endoscopic ultrasound-guided pancreatic duct drainage using antegrade stenting

A 66-year-old woman was admitted to our hospital because of abdominal pain. She had previously had chronic pancreatitis. On magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) and EUS imaging, the pancreatic duct was observed to be dilated from the head of the pancreas, around which a pancreatic stone was also seen. This pancreatic stenosis was treated using a pancreatic stent. First, we performed ERCP, through which we observed the stenosis of the pancreatic duct. However, we were unable to pass the ERCP cannula through the stenosis site (Fig. 1). Next, the scope was changed from a duodenoscope to a convex echoendoscope. To avoid any intervening vessels, the pancreatic duct was first punctured using a 19-G needle under Doppler imaging (Fig. 2). After pancreatic juice had been aspirated, contrast medium was injected, and images of the pancreatic duct were obtained (Fig. 3). Then, a 0.025-inch stiff guidewire was inserted, and was easily advanced into the duodenum through the stenosis. Next, the 19-G needle was exchanged for an ERCP catheter to dilate the fistula (Fig. 4). Although an EUS-guided rendezvous approach was considered, EUS-guided antegrade stenting of the pancreatic duct was attempted because no leakage of pancreatic juice was seen on endosonographic imaging. The 7-Fr straight plastic stent was inserted antegradely, from the duodenum to the pancreatic duct (Fig. 5). No adverse events were seen.

Although validation is required in a prospective clinical trial, this novel technique appears to be safe and effective as an option for EUS-guided pancreatic duct drainage.
Competing interests: None

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Fig. 4 A 0.025-inch guidewire and ERCP cannula have been easily advanced into the duodenum through the stenosis.

Fig. 5 A 7-Fr plastic stent has been placed antegradely.