Endoscopic removal of buried lumen-apposing metal stents used for cystogastrostomy and cholecystogastrostomy

The Hot AXIOS system is a new device for transgastric or transduodenal endoscopic drainage of a pancreatic pseudocyst or the gallbladder [1,2] using a lumen-apposing metal stent (LAMS) mounted on an electrocautery-enhanced introduction system. The device seems to be relatively safe in expert hands; however, the literature on management of its complications is limited [1–4]. Hereby, we report on two patients with embedded LAMSs, which were endoscopically removed.

Patient 1 was a 68-year-old man with a pseudocyst after acute pancreatitis who underwent successful endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided cystogastrostomy with placement of an AXIOS stent (10 × 10 mm). Endoscopic removal of the LAMS was planned 3 months later; however, gastroscopy showed tissue overgrowth at the gastric flange of the LAMS making direct removal of the stent with a rat-tooth forceps or snare impossible. To avoid the patient having to undergo surgery, we opted for endoscopic treatment consisting of forced argon plasma coagulation (APC), needle-knife incision, and dilation of the stent up to 12 mm (Video 1). After the tissue overgrowth had been sufficiently removed from the gastric flange, it was possible to remove the LAMS with a rat-tooth forceps. No complications subsequently occurred.

Patient 2 was a 59-year-old man with acute acalculous cholecystitis who underwent successful endoscopic gallbladder drainage by EUS-guided cholecystogastrostomy, making regular stent removal with a forceps impossible [1,3]. In such circumstances, endoscopic techniques as described above can be considered as rescue therapy.

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