A novel retrieval method using a Cusco speculum for large colorectal resection specimens following endoscopic treatment

Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) was performed for early rectal cancer in a 70-year-old man (Fig. 1). The bulky tumor occupied nearly half of the lumen. As the forcible removal of the resected specimen from the rectum using only the retrieval net (Disposable Loop Retrieval Net; net diameter 40×75 mm; Meditalia, Palermo, Italy) could have resulted in its fragmentation, we decided to take a different approach.

The endoscope was withdrawn from the patient’s body, so that it could be passed through a Cusco speculum (Fig. 2). When the endoscope was reintroduced into the rectum, the specimen was grasped with the retrieval net. The Cusco speculum was then carefully inserted into the anus to dilate the anal canal and retrieve the specimen (Fig. 3; Video 1). The actual size of the specimen was 50×45 mm in diameter and the height of the raised portions was 25 mm (Fig. 4). In this way, the specimen was retrieved undamaged and there were no complications due to the procedure.

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that, during transanal surgery under general anesthesia, the anal sphincter was damaged, leading to various degrees of incontinence, in approximately 20% of patients when the anal canal was stretched to a diameter of 4 cm [4], while damage to the anal sphincter was not seen when the anal canal was dilated up to 3 cm.

In our case, the anal canal was dilated to approximately 3 cm with the patient under conscious sedation and the specimen was retrieved without any adverse events. This method was used not only to retrieve the large ESD specimen but also to retrieve a huge polyp that was resected by endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) (Fig. 5). In summary, dilation of the anal canal using a Cusco speculum was found to be both safe and effective for the retrieval of specimens resected by EMR and ESD.

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Competing interests: None

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