Endoscopic ultrasound-guided transjejunal rendezvous access to the common bile duct

The patient was an 83-year-old man with a history of gastric cancer for which he underwent total gastrectomy with Roux-en-Y esophagojejunostomy. He presented with cholestasis, and imaging revealed evidence of choledocholithiasis. The patient’s surgically altered anatomy presented a challenge for endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). Despite multiple attempts, enteroscopy-assisted ERCP was not successful, as the papilla could not be visualized. Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided biliary ductal access was then performed. A transhepatic route was not possible as the intrahepatic ducts were not dilated. The conventional transduodenal access to the bile duct was also not possible because of the surgically altered anatomy. The EUS scope was advanced to the jejunum until fluoroscopically it was contiguous to the common bile duct (CBD). An EUS-guided transjejunal access of the common bile duct was then attempted (▶Video 1). With EUS guidance, a 19 gauge flexible needle was used to puncture the CBD (▶Fig. 1). Contrast was injected, and revealed dilation of the CBD and a filling defect in the mid-CBD (▶Fig. 2). A 0.025 inch guidewire was advanced through the CBD and coiled within the duodenum (▶Fig. 3). The scope was withdrawn, and an enteroscope was advanced into the biliary limb to retrieve the guidewire using a snare. The scope and guidewire were then fully withdrawn from the patient, and an adult colonoscope was advanced over the wire (▶Fig. 4) to the papilla. Sphincterotomy followed by sphincteroplasty to 12 mm were then performed. A few large stones were removed using an extraction balloon (▶Fig. 5), until clear bile was obtained. The largest stone measured 15 mm in diameter (▶Fig. 6)

After the procedure, the patient developed mild cholangitis and was managed conservatively with antibiotics. His temperature and liver function tests returned to normal. He was discharged home 6 days after the procedure.

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Competing interests

Dr. Khashab is a consultant for Boston Scientific. Dr. Kumbhari is a consultant for Boston Scientific and Apollo Endosurgery.

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Fig. 4 Endoscopic view showing the afferent (right) and efferent (left) limbs as the colonoscope was advanced over the wire to the papilla.

Fig. 5 Fluoroscopic view: multiple sweeps were performed using an extraction balloon, and many small stones were removed.

Fig. 6 Endoscopic view showing one of the larger stones removed by the extraction balloon.