Circumferential rectal laterally spreading tumor resected by endoscopic submucosal dissection in a Western center

A 78-year-old patient without relevant past medical history underwent colonoscopy for chronic diarrhea. Examination identified a laterally spreading tumor (LST), mixed-granular-type (nodules up to 1 cm) in the rectum, from the pectin line to the rectosigmoid transition. The LST covered 100% of the circumference of this segment (>Fig. 1). Endoscopic evaluation was compatible with an adenomatous lesion with preserved pit pattern (Kudo III/IV classification), without unequivocal endoscopic suspicion of invasive lesion (NICE 2; JNET 2B). After multidisciplinary evaluation, endoscopic resection by endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) was decided.

The procedure was performed with the patient under general anesthesia. A gastroscope (GIF-HQ190; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) and carbon dioxide insufflation were used. The lesion was gradually elevated with a colloid solution (Voluven [Fresenius Kabi Norge AS, Halden, Norway] + indigo carmine + adrenaline), and the excision was performed by ESD using the FlushKnife (Fujifilm Corp., Tokyo, Japan) and the IT Knife nano (Olympus) (>Fig. 2). En bloc resection was achieved, obtaining a circumferential specimen with a length of 15 cm, corresponding to the entire rectal mucosa (>Fig. 3, >Video 1). The procedure time was 420 minutes. Antimicrobial prophylaxis with a single dose of ceftriaxone (2 g) was given. There were no immediate complications and the patient was discharged 24 hours after the procedure. Histological examination revealed a tubulovillous adenoma with high grade dysplasia.

Although the patient remained asymptomatic, endoscopic evaluation after 2 months revealed stenosis at the ESD site. Balloon dilation up to 15 mm (diameter) was performed in a single session (>Fig. 4).

ESD is an organ-sparing endoscopic technique that allows en bloc resection of superficial gastrointestinal lesions regardless of their size, optimizing the histological evaluation [1]. This is particularly important in the rectum because of the high morbidity associated with the alternative surgical approaches [2]. Although described in Asian case reports [3, 4], to our knowledge this is the first report showing endoscopic treatment by ESD of a giant circumferential colorectal LST in a Western center.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AQ_2AD

Competing interests

None

The Authors

José Rodrigues¹, Pedro Barreiro¹, Joana Carmo¹, Lidia Ramos², Cristina Chagas³

¹ Serviço de Gastrenterologia, Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental, Lisboa, Portugal
² Serviço de Gastrenterologia, Hospital Garcia d’Orta, Almada, Portugal
Corresponding author

Pedro Barreiro, MD
Serviço de Gastroenterologia, Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental – Hospital de Egas Moniz, Rua da Junqueira 126, 1349-019 Lisboa, Portugal
Fax: +351-21-0432430
pedrobarreiro@msn.com

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DOI https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0043-119347
Published online: 9.10.2017
Endoscopy 2017; 49: E305–E306
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Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

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Video 1 Endoscopic submucosal dissection for the treatment of a 15 cm circumferential rectal laterally spreading tumor.

Corresponding author

Pedro Barreiro, MD
Serviço de Gastroenterologia, Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental – Hospital de Egas Moniz, Rua da Junqueira 126, 1349-019 Lisboa, Portugal
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