Endoscopic removal of a proximally migrated biliary stent using a novel gooseneck snare: the “EndoCowboy”

Proximal migration often occurs as an adverse event of biliary stent placement, with a reported migration rate of 3.1%–4.9% [1]. Although various techniques have been reported for endoscopic removal of proximally migrated biliary stents, the procedure is still technically demanding and time-consuming, and occasionally unsuccessful [2–4]. We describe a useful technique for endoscopic removal of a proximally migrated biliary stent using a novel gooseneck snare (Fig. 1).

A man in his 70s who had undergone placement of a 7-Fr straight plastic stent for benign biliary stricture was admitted to retrieve or exchange the stent; however, we noticed during endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) that the stent had migrated proximally into the common bile duct (Fig. 2a). To remove the stent, biliary wire-guided cannulation was first performed, with the cannula (MTW Endoskopie, Wesel, Germany) being inserted near the distal end of the stent. After the guidewire had been removed, a gooseneck snare (EndoCowboy; Piolax Medical Devices, Kanagawa, Japan) was inserted through the lumen of the prepositioned cannula (Fig. 2b). Once the snare loop had been passed over the stent, the snare...
was pulled tight, grasping the stent (▶Fig. 2c). Finally, the cannula and snare were simultaneously pulled down and the stent was successfully removed though the scope with no adverse events (▶Video 1).

A gooseneck snare has a microsnare loop forming a 90° angle just after exiting the outer sheath. It is useful for retrieving and manipulating foreign objects in the cardiovascular system [5], but until now there have been no devices for endoscopic use. The EndoCowboy was developed for ERCP. Its 2700-mm length is suitable for an endoscopic device, and various loop sizes are available to suit the diameter of the bile duct. This novel gooseneck snare can therefore be a useful option for the removal of proximally migrated stents and is recommended to have on standby.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AR_2AZ

Competing interests

None

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DOI https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0043-119982
Published online: 9.10.2017
Endoscopy 2017; 49: E321–E322
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

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