The authors report a case of a 48-year-old Caucasian woman with a 3.5 cm residual polyp embedded in tissue scar, as a result of three endoscopic piecemeal resection sessions of a 10 cm sessile polyp of the lower rectum, previously diagnosed from biopsy as tubulous-villous adenoma with high-grade dysplasia.

The patient was then submitted to en bloc resection with endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) according to the technique of Yamamoto [1,2] (Fig. 1 – 3). The procedure time was 2 hours. The postoperative course was uneventful and the patient was discharged 2 days after the procedure.

The histological examination of the resected specimen described a residual adenomatous tissue with high-grade dysplasia; the excision margins were negative (R0 resection). The patient underwent control endoscopy 6 months later (Fig. 6), and multiple biopsies were performed.
taken of the resected area, which were negative at the histological examination.

In cases of large polyps the standard of care is endoscopic piecemeal resection that, unfortunately, carries two disadvantages: the margins of resection may be difficult to evaluate by the pathologist, and in 14%–50% of cases at least one additional endoscopic session is required [3]. Notably, further endoscopic resection is often difficult as a result of fibrosis. These concerns are emphasized in large villous sessile rectal polyps because of their high potential for malignant transformation. In the reported case, the en bloc resection of a residual polyp, not amenable to standard endoscopic treatment (including endoscopic mucosal resection), was accomplished by ESD, avoiding a more invasive surgical procedure. As reported for residual/recurrence of early gastric cancer after endoscopic mucosal resection [4,5], ESD can be proposed as an interesting endoscopic “rescue therapy” for residual rectal scar-embedded polyps.

References