Endoscopic Snare Excision of a Major Duodenal Papillary Tumor

Yoshinori Igarashi    Naoki Okano    Ken Ito    Takahiko Mimura    Shigeru Nakano

Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Toho University, Tokyo, Japan

Introduction

Tumors of the duodenal papilla can include adenomas, carcinoma in adenomas and carcinomas, or show hyperplasia. Villous adenomas of the major papilla are complicated by carcinoma in about 30% of cases [1, 2], and treatment consists of local surgical resection. Prior to surgery, it is critical to establish a diagnosis of either benign or malignant disease, and the depth of invasion. In recent years, endoscopic papillectomy has been performed to achieve complete resection of adenomas [3, 4]. A number of endoscopic resection techniques for tumors of the major papilla have been introduced together with instruments developed for these purposes [5, 6]. Such techniques can result in serious complications, such as bleeding and postoperative pancreatitis or postoperative cholangitis. In this paper, we introduce a technique for endoscopic snare excision of major papillary tumors using a polypectomy snare and postoperative stenting of the pancreatic and bile ducts, which appears to reduce the incidence of serious complications.

Patients and Methods

Indications

Patients underwent abdominal computer tomography, endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS), intraductal ultrasonography (IDUS) and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) prior to endoscopic treatment. The indications for endoscopic snare excision were as follows: (1) the tumor is a protruding
lesion without ulceration; (2) histological findings of a biopsy specimen showed hyperplasia, atypical epithelium and adenoma, with endoscopic snare excision being indicated for the treatment of adenocarcinoma but not carcinoma at that time; (3) ERCP findings are normal for the main pancreatic duct and the common bile duct; (4) the tumor is located in the mucosal layer (determined by EUS), and (5) IDUS findings are normal for the main pancreatic duct and the common bile duct, and reveal no tumor invasion of the sphincter of Oddi.

**Patients**

Thirty-six patients (18 males and 18 females; mean age, 66 years; range 34–89 years) with tumor of the major duodenal papilla were admitted to our hospital during the period from October 2002 to March 2009. Tumor size was 16.3 ± 7.4 mm (mean ± SD, range: 7–34 mm). Informed consent was obtained from all patients prior to endoscopic treatment.

**Endoscopic Technique**

ERCP is performed using a TJF-240 or TJF-260V duodenoscope (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). For tumor resection, first indigo carmine is sprayed over the tumor to demarcate it (fig. 1a, b), and a polypectomy snare (SD-Y0001-U15 or SD-230U; Olympus) is placed over the tumor from the oral side. The snare wire is then tightened while observing the anal side (fig. 1c). The tumor is then resected en block with high-frequency surgical equipment set at 120 W in the Autocut mode (pure cutting current). Endoscopic image shows no bleeding and no perforation after resection. The guide wire inserted into the pancreatic and bile duct. A 7-french pancreatic stent was also inserted into the common bile duct.

**Fig. 1.** A 77-year-old woman who was admitted to our hospital with abdominal discomfort. a Endoscopy shows swelling of the major papilla, and histological examination of the biopsy specimen reveals adenoma. b Dye endoscopy (indigo carmine) clearly indicates the tumor margins. c The polypectomy snare is opened from the oral side of the tumor, and the wire is tightened while observing the anal side. d The tumor is resected with high-frequency surgical equipment set at 120 W in the Autocut mode (pure cutting current). Endoscopic image shows no bleeding and no perforation after resection. e The guide wire inserted into the pancreatic and bile duct. f A 7-french pancreatic stent was inserted into the pancreatic duct and a 7-french biliary stent was also inserted into the common bile duct.
Endoscopic Snare Excision of Papillary Tumors

**Results**

**Early Complications**

Early complications (table 1) that can arise following endoscopic papillectomy for a papillary tumor are (1) bleeding, (2) postoperative pancreatitis, (3) postoperative acute cholangitis, and (4) perforation [7]. In our series, bleeding occurred in 6 cases (17%) after endoscopic snare extraction. In 3 of the 6 cases, bleeding could be stopped using a hemoclip and/or electric coagulation.

Bleeding occurred on postoperative day 1 in 2 cases and on postoperative day 7 in the remaining case. In all cases, bleeding was successfully stopped.

**Late Complications**

Late complications encountered were (1) stenosis of the major papilla (table 1) and (2) tumor recurrence.

In regard to stenosis, 2 cases (5.5%) showed stenosis of the major papilla: one of the main pancreatic duct and the bile duct, and the other of the bile duct. Additional endoscopic sphincterotomy or balloon dilation was successful in both cases.

Regarding tumor recurrence, there was no recurrence of adenoma. Recurrence of adenocarcinoma in adenoma (25%) was diagnosed in 1 case after 3 months and endoscopic snare resection was repeated. The patient showed no recurrence after 30 months. In addition, recurrence was found in 2 adenocarcinoma cases (40%). One of the patients died from metastatic disease after 13 months, and the other patient is doing well 37 months after endoscopic biliary stenting.

**Discussion**

Screening endoscopy of the upper gastrointestinal tract using a forward-viewing scope has recently been utilized to facilitate the diagnosis of tumors of the major duodenal papilla. However, the tumor can be difficult to visualize from the front. In such cases, the side-viewing scope is a useful and important tool to observe the major papilla. Tumors of the duodenal papilla can include adenomas, carcinoma in adenomas, carcinomas, carcinoids, or hemangiomas, or show hyperplasia, and a correct preoperative diagnosis is important to select the most suitable treatment approach. While tubular adenoma of the major papilla is rarely associated with adenocarcinoma, villous adenoma is complicated by carcinoma in about 30% of cases [2]. In patients with carcinoma in adenoma, it is extremely difficult to make a definitive diagnosis from a biopsy specimen because the carcinoma cells are located deep within the tumor. Using EUS, it is possible to determine the localization of a tumor in the duodenal wall [8] and with IDUS, it is possible to clarify possible invasion of the main pancreatic and/or common bile ducts [9]. We found that ERCP, EUS and IDUS were useful to determine the depth of tumor invasion before endoscopic treatments. Endoscopic snare excision performed according to our indi-

---

**Table 1. Early and late complications in the study patients treated with endoscopic snare excision**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early complications</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bleeding: endoscopic hemostases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During the procedure</td>
<td>3 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the next day</td>
<td>2 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 7 days</td>
<td>1 case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postoperative pancreatitis</td>
<td>11 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute cholecystitis</td>
<td>1 case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perforation</td>
<td>0 case</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late complications</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stenoses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreatic and biliary duct</td>
<td>1 case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biliary tract</td>
<td>1 case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2 cases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
cations was found to be successful in reducing the incidence of serious complications in our series of 36 patients. Furthermore, since en block resection is known to be more beneficial than biopsy for histological diagnosis in more severe, atypical cases [10], for 12 of our patients (33%) who were preoperatively diagnosed with carcinoma in adenoma or carcinoma requiring major intervention, the polypectomy snare, which enables complete resection for confirmatory histological diagnosis, is clearly advantageous.

Conclusion

Using our technique involving a polypectomy snare, which reduced the need for intra- and postoperative stenting of the pancreatic and/or bile duct, serious complications may be reduced thus improving the safety of endoscopic snare excision of a tumor of the major papilla. In addition, en block resection of the tumor is useful for histological diagnosis, which is especially important for patients diagnosed with adenocarcinoma as they require follow-up examinations and in some cases additional surgery.

References