Traction-assisted endoscopic submucosal dissection of a duodenal gastrointestinal stromal tumor



► Fig. 1 Subepithelial lesion in the distal descending duodenum covered by normal mucosa.



▶ Fig.2 Endoscopic ultrasound showing a 15-mm hypoechoic, regular, and homogeneous lesion engaging the muscularis propria.



► Fig. 3 Traction system using a dental floss ring and two conventional clips.

A 70-year-old woman with a gastric adenocarcinoma and a subepithelial lesion in the distal descending duodenum (> Fig. 1) was referred to us. On endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), a 15-mm hypoechoic, regular, and homogeneous lesion engaging the muscularis propria was observed (> Fig. 2). Histopathology analysis of the fine-needle biopsy showed a gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) with a low proliferative index. After discussion in a multidisciplinary team conference and on patient consent, an endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) and gastrectomy were performed in the same session.

In order to facilitate access to the submucosa during ESD, we applied a traction system using a dental floss ring and two clips (> Fig. 3). This system enabled quick, safe, and complete resection with full control of the dissection plane (> Fig. 4, > Video 1). The GIST was resected en bloc and the wall defect was fully closed using eight metallic clips and an endoloop (> Fig. 5). There were no adverse events during the procedure. Postoperatively, the patient developed mild abdominal pain, which was easily controlled with painkillers, and oral intake was restarted on day 3. The patient was re-admitted at 2 months owing to fever caused by a retroperitoneal fluid collection that was treated with antibiotherapy and EUS drainage; she remained asymptomatic at the 3-month follow-up. ESD has been increasingly used for the treatment of duodenal epithelial [1] and subepithelial [2,3] lesions. Endoscopic treatment of GISTs is controversial due to the need for complete resection and associated risks. Small series of gastric GIST ESD were described, but only few cases of GIST ESDs were reported [4]



Fig.4 Traction system enabling full control of the dissection plane.



Fig. 5 Closure of the wall defect after tumor resection using eight metallic clips and an endoloop.

and none with this technique. Several traction devices may be used for ESD [5], but this GIST was located in the distal duodenum, precluding the use of most of them. This case also highlights the need for long and close follow-up of these patients.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.





Video 1 Endoscopic submucosal dissection of a gastrointestinal stromal tumor using a traction system.

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