

Case Control Study

Passive-bending, short-type single-balloon enteroscope for endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography in Roux-en-Y anastomosis patients

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Abstract

AIM: To evaluate short-type-single-balloon enteroscope (SBE) with passive-bending, high-force trans-

mission functions for endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) in patients with Roux-en-Y anastomosis.

METHODS: Short-type SBE with this technology (SIF-Y0004-V01; working length, 1520 mm; channel diameter, 3.2 mm) was used to perform 50 ERCP procedures in 37 patients with Roux-en-Y anastomosis. The rate of reaching the blind end, time required to reach the blind end, diagnostic and therapeutic success rates, and procedure time and complications were studied retrospectively and compared with the results of 34 sessions of ERCP performed using a short-type SBE without this technology (SIF-Y0004; working length, 1520 mm; channel diameter, 3.2 mm) in 25 patients.

RESULTS: The rate of reaching the blind end was 90% with SIF-Y0004-V01 and 91% with SIF-Y0004 ($P = 0.59$). The median time required to reach the papilla was significantly shorter with SIF-Y0004-V01 than with SIF-Y0004 (16 min vs 24 min, $P = 0.04$). The diagnostic success rate was 93% with SIF-Y0004-V01 and 84% with SIF-Y0004 ($P = 0.17$). The therapeutic success rate was 95% with SIF-Y0004-V01 and 96% with SIF-Y0004 ($P = 0.68$). The median procedure time was 40 min with SIF-Y0004-V01 and 36 min with SIF-Y0004 ($P = 0.50$). The incidence of hyperamylasemia was 6.0% in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 14.7% in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P = 0.723$). The incidence of pancreatitis was 0% in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 5.9% in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P > 0.999$). The incidence of gastrointestinal perforation was 2.0% (1/50) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 2.9% (1/34) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P > 0.999$).

CONCLUSION: SIF-Y0004-V01 is useful for ERCP in

patients with Roux-en-Y anastomosis and may reduce the time required to reach the blind end.

Key words: Passive bending; Roux-en-Y anastomosis; Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; Short type; Single-balloon enteroscope

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Core tip: We performed endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) with a short-type single-balloon enteroscope with passive-bending and high-force transmission functions (working length, 1520 mm; channel diameter, 3.2 mm), and evaluated its effectiveness and compared results with normal short-type single-balloon enteroscope. This technology is expected to facilitate ERCP after intestinal reconstruction. In our study, the rate of reaching the blind end did not differ, however the median time required to reach the blind end was significantly shorter, and therefore this scope is useful for ERCP in patients with a Roux-en-Y anastomosis.

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INTRODUCTION

The long-type double-balloon enteroscope (DBE) was introduced by Yamamoto *et al*^[1] for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment of the small intestine. The first report of DBE-assisted endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) was reported by Haruta *et al*^[2] in patients with Roux-en-Y (R-Y) hepaticojejunostomy after liver transplantation.

The advent of the balloon enteroscope has improved the outcomes of ERCP in patients with surgically altered anatomy, and many recent studies have reported that single-balloon endoscope (SBE)-assisted ERCP^[3-7] and DBE-assisted ERCP^[8-12] are useful^[3-15]. However, performing ERCP with a balloon enteroscope can be challenging, and several problems remain to be solved. For example, balloon enteroscopes lack a lifting device, and the narrow channel diameter precludes the use of wide-guided devices. The development of improved models of endoscopes and specialized devices is needed to improve the rate of reaching the papilla of Vater or choledochojejunal anastomosis (the blind end) and to reliably perform treatment procedures.

We evaluated the usefulness of a short-type SBE (SIF-Y0004; working length, 1520 mm; channel

diameter, 3.2 mm) in postoperative patients with reconstructed intestines who underwent ERCP^[4]. This scope allowed most wire-guided devices to be used and facilitated treatment procedures. Because a short-type SBE has a short working length, a decreased rate of reaching the blind end was a matter of concern. However, the rate of reaching the blind end with a short-type SBE is similar to that with a conventional SBE (SIF-Q260; Olympus Medical Systems)^[7]. The rate of reaching the blind end during ERCP in patients who have undergone surgical reconstruction of the bowel with a balloon enteroscope is generally higher than 80%, but differs among hospitals^[3,5,6,8,10]. Similar results have been obtained with an SBE and a DBE^[13,14]. However, performing ERCP with a balloon enteroscope remains challenging mainly because of two factors: difficulty in reaching the blind end caused by postoperative adhesions and sharp bends at anastomoses, and limited availability of devices that can be used with a balloon enteroscope. To solve these problems, a short-type SBE equipped with passive bending (PB) section and high-force transmission (HFT) functions (SIF-Y0004-V01; working length, 1520 mm; channel diameter, 3.2 mm; Olympus Medical Systems; Tokyo, Japan) was developed.

It was reported that colonoscopes equipped with this technology can pass through the intestine with adhesions or hairpin bends, without distending the intestine, potentially causing less discomfort and speeding the insertion time as compared with a conventional colonoscope^[15-18]. This technology is expected to facilitate ERCP after intestinal reconstruction^[19]. We evaluated the performance of SIF-Y0004-V01 for ERCP in patients with R-Y anastomosis and compared our results with the outcomes of ERCP performed with SIF-Y0004.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patients

Between June 2011 and January 2014, we performed 84 ERCP procedures in 62 patients with R-Y anastomosis. SIF-Y0004-V01 was used to perform 50 procedures in 37 patients (SIF-Y0004-V01 group), and SIF-Y0004 was used to perform in 34 procedures in 25 patients (SIF-Y0004 group). As for patient characteristics, the number of patients with portal lymph-node metastasis after surgery for gastric cancer was significantly higher in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P = 0.005$). Factors likely to influence the rate of reaching the blind end, such as abdominal surgery and peritoneal dissemination, did not differ significantly between the groups. The baseline characteristics of the patients are shown in Table 1.

Features of SIF-Y0004-V01

SIF-Y0004-V01 has three new features. First, it has a PB section that only bends passively. When the PB

Table 1 Baseline characteristics of the patients *n* (% of procedures)

Characteristic	SIF-Y0004-V01 (<i>n</i> = 50)	SIF-Y0004 (<i>n</i> = 34)	<i>P</i> value	All SBE-assisted ERCP (<i>n</i> = 84)
Reconstruction method				
Roux-en-Y gastrectomy	34 (68)	29 (85)	0.124	63 (75)
Roux-en-Y hepaticojejunostomy	16 (32)	5 (17)		21 (25)
Age, (yr) (mean ± SD)	71.4 ± 9.2	70.0 ± 11.0	0.529	70.8 ± 9.9
Sex				
Male	40 (80)	31 (91)	0.168	71 (85)
Female	10 (20)	3 (9)		13 (15)
Reasons for surgery				
Gastric ulcer	0 (0)	1 (3)	0.218	1 (1)
Duodenum ulcer	0 (0)	2 (6)	0.080	2 (2)
Carcinoma of the stomach	32 (64)	25 (73)	0.387	57 (68)
Malignant lymphoma of the stomach	2 (4)	0 (0)	0.238	2 (2)
Carcinoma of the duodenum	1 (2)	0 (0)	0.407	1 (1)
Tumors of the pancreas				
Carcinoma of the pancreas	3 (6)	0 (0)	0.146	3 (4)
SCN	1 (2)	0 (0)	0.407	1 (1)
NET	1 (2)	0 (0)	0.407	1 (1)
Tumors of the biliary tract				
Carcinoma of the bile duct	4 (8)	0 (0)	0.091	4 (5)
IPNB	2 (4)	3 (9)	0.345	5 (6)
Pancreaticobiliary maljunction	2 (4)	1 (3)	0.809	3 (4)
Congenital choledochal cyst	0 (0)	1 (3)	0.218	1 (1)
Other	2 (4)	1 (3)	0.809	3 (4)
Reasons for ERCP				
AOSC (due to CBD stone)	0 (0)	2 (6)	0.080	2 (2)
Pancreatitis (due to CBD stone)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0.407	1 (1)
CBD stone	26 (52)	21 (62)	0.365	47 (56)
Intrahepatic stone	10 (20)	3 (9)	0.172	13 (16)
Carcinoma of the pancreas	2 (4)	1 (3)	0.809	3 (4)
Carcinoma of the gallbladder	1 (2)	0 (0)	0.407	1 (1)
Cholangiocellular carcinoma	3 (6)	0 (0)	0.146	3 (4)
IPMN	0 (0)	2 (6)	0.080	2 (2)
IPNB	2 (4)	4 (12)	0.165	6 (7)
Pancreaticobiliary maljunction	1 (2)	0 (0)	0.407	1 (1)
Metastasis of L/n in porta hepatis	0 (0)	5 (15)	0.005	5 (6)
Stricture of the anastomotic site	4 (8)	0 (0)	0.091	4 (5)
Other	1 (2)	1 (3)	0.769	2 (2)
Other abdominal or pelvic surgery	9 (18)	10 (29)	0.236	19 (23)
Peritoneal metastasis	0 (0)	2 (6)	0.080	2 (3)

AOSC: Acute obstructive suppurative cholangitis; ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; CBD: Common bile duct; IPMN: Intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm; IPNB: Intraductal papillary neoplasm of the bile duct; NET: Neuroendocrine tumors; SCN: Serous cystic neoplasm.

section meets with resistance, such as the reactive force of the intestinal wall, the force applied by the operator is physically transferred at the PB section, pushing the scope tip forward in the lumen. This function is thought to facilitate the passage of the scope through sharp bends in the intestine caused by bowel reconstruction (Figure 1).

Second, SIF-Y0004-V01 has HFT function, which is designed to facilitate the transmission of push and pull forces and rotational torque applied by the operator to the distal end of the scope. Consequently, the scope responds more sensitively to operator handling and is easier to maneuver. HFT is also expected to improve the rate of reaching the blind end and to facilitate accurate cannulation.

Third, SIF-Y0004-V01 has a short working length of 1520 mm and a working channel diameter of 3.2 mm, enabling the use of nearly all devices used to perform conventional ERCP. The use of

retrieval baskets or other devices with commercially available balloon enteroscopes require freehand cannulation. In contrast, SIF-Y0004-V01 allows wire-guided lithotripsy and wire-guided intraductal ultrasonography to be easily performed. The placement of up to 8.5 Fr stents is possible.

Comparison of SIF-Y0004-V01, SIF-Y0004 and SIF-Q260

Table 2 compares the specifications of the endoscopes, including a conventional SBE (SIF-Q260; Olympus Medical Systems). The difference between scopes in this study was the presence or absence of PB and HFT functions. A sliding tube with a working length of 880 mm was used.

Methods

Patients were sedated with pethidine (50 mg) and midazolam (3-10 mg), and vital signs were intermittently monitored during all procedures. Propofol

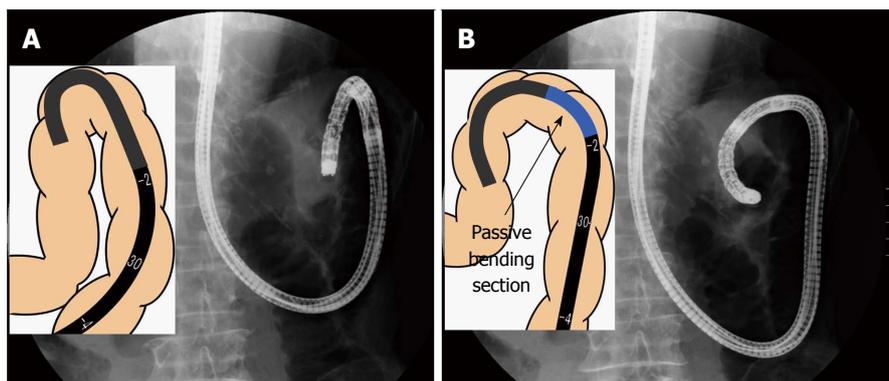


Figure 1 Passive bending section. A: A "stick phenomenon" occurs in the horizontal portion of duodenum and at the Treitz ligament in a patient who had undergone Roux-en-Y gastrojejunostomy; B: The "stick phenomenon" is likely to occur when the scope is pushed. However, the passive bending section bends, propelling the scope tip forward, without pushing up the wall of the small intestine.

Table 2 Specifications of three-types of single-balloon endoscopes

Variable	SIF-Y0004-V01	SIF-Y0004	SIF-Q260
Direction of view	Forward viewing	Forward viewing	Forward viewing
Angle of view	120°	120°	140°
Outer diameter (mm)			
Distal end	9.2	9.2	9.2
Insertion end	9.2	9.2	9.2
Bending section			
Up/down	180°/180°	180°/180°	180°/180°
Right/left	160°/160°	160°/160°	160°/160°
Working length (mm)	1520	1520	2000
Total length (mm)	1840	1840	2345
Working channel diameter (mm)	3.2	3.2	2.8
Water jet	Yes	Yes	No
Passive bending and high force transmission	Yes	No	No

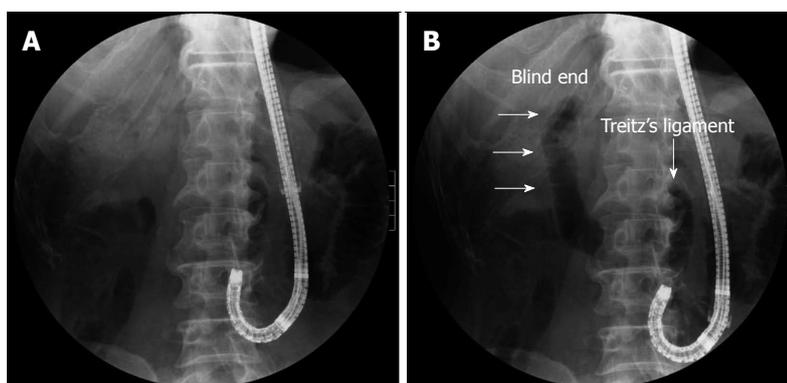


Figure 2 Carbon dioxide inflation guidance. A: The tip of the single balloon enteroscope is located at the anastomotic site of the afferent loop; B: Carbon dioxide is guiding the correct direction and blind end (arrows).

was used if necessary. Carbon dioxide insufflation was performed in all patients. The endoscope was inserted with the patient in the prone position, and abdominal compression was applied manually if a scope was technically difficult to insert deeply.

After reaching the intestinal anastomosis, the scope was inserted into either the afferent or efferent loop. Next, the balloon was inflated and then insufflated with CO₂. The direction of the

insufflated intestine was confirmed radiographically. If the scope is placed into the afferent loop, the blind end is depicted, and the direction of movement becomes clearer. We refer to this procedure as "CO₂ inflation guidance" (Figure 2). After reaching the blind end, butylscopolamine (20-40 mg) or glucagon (1-2 mg) was administered as an antispasmodic.

We retrospectively assessed the rate of reaching the blind end, median time required to reach the

Table 3 Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography sessions according to endoscopist, *n* (rate of reaching blind end)

Endoscopist	SIF-Y0004-V01 (<i>n</i> = 50)	SIF-Y0004 (<i>n</i> = 34)	<i>P</i> value	Experience with SBE-assisted ERCP, <i>n</i>
A	6 (83)	17 (88)	0.001	56
B	11 (91)	8 (88)	0.872	29
C	13 (85)	4 (100)	0.111	29
D	16 (94)	5 (100)	0.072	26
E	4 (100)	-	0.090	5

ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; SBE: Single-balloon enteroscopy.

blind end, diagnostic success rate (defined as the rate of successfully imaging the bile and pancreatic ducts), therapeutic success rate (defined as the rate of successfully completing endoscopic treatment), median procedure time, and complications in patients in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group. The results were then compared with the respective values in patients in the SIF-Y0004 group. Pancreatitis was evaluated according to the 1991 Consensus Guidelines (Cotton Classification)^[20]. Hyperamylasemia was defined as a rise in serum amylase levels to more than three times the upper limit of normal. Because a prospective study reported that 25%-50% of patients had hyperamylasemia and 3%-12% had pancreatitis after double-balloon enteroscopy *via* an oral approach^[21-23], hyperamylasemia and pancreatitis were assessed in all patients with a pancreas, regardless of whether the blind end was reached. In patients in whom the blind end was not reached, SBE-assisted ERCP was not attempted a second time, except if the patient strongly requested to undergo the procedure again. If SBE-assisted ERCP was unsuccessful, open surgery or percutaneous cholangioscopy was performed.

Endoscopists

Five endoscopists performed all endoscopic examinations and procedures. The same operator conducted all procedures from the time of scope insertion to treatment. Endoscopist A, who had the most experience in SBE-assisted ERCP, conducted significantly more ERCP sessions in SIF-Y0004 group than in SIF-Y0004-V01 group ($P < 0.01$). The number of sessions of ERCP performed by endoscopists B, C, D, and E did not differ between the groups. Patients treated by endoscopist E, who had the least experience, belonged to SIF-Y0004-V01 group (Table 3).

Statistical analysis

Numerical data are presented as mean \pm SD, range, or both. Continuous variables were analyzed using a Student's *t*-test or Mann-Whitney *U* test. Categorical variables were analyzed using Fisher's exact test. $P < 0.05$ were considered to indicate statistical significance. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS, version 19 for Windows (IBM Corp.,

Armonk, NY, United States).

RESULTS

Rate of reaching the blind end (papilla of Vater or choledochojejunal anastomosis)

The rate of reaching the blind end was 90% (45/50) in SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 91% (31/34) in SIF-Y0004 group. This difference was not significant ($P = 0.586$).

Time required to reach the blind end

The median time required to reach the blind end was significantly shorter in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group (16 min; range: 3-56 min) than in the SIF-Y0004 group (24 min; range: 10-66 min; $P = 0.039$).

Diagnostic success rates

The diagnostic success rate was 93% (42/45) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 84% (26/31) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P = 0.173$). For patients with an intact papilla, the success rate was 89% (23/26) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 77% (17/22) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P = 0.258$).

Therapeutic success rate

The therapeutic success rate was 95% (40/42) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 96% (25/26) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P = 0.676$). For patients with an intact papilla, the success rate was 97% (22/23) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 94% (16/17) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P = 0.676$).

Procedure time

The mean procedure time was 43.7 min (median 40 min, range: 5-99 min) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 41.5 min (median 36 min, range: 12-125 min) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P = 0.691$).

Complications

The incidence of hyperamylasemia was 6.0% (3/50) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 14.7% (5/34) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P = 0.723$). For patients with an intact papilla, the incidence was 3.5% (1/28) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 10.3% (3/29) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P > 0.999$). The incidence of pancreatitis was 0% in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group

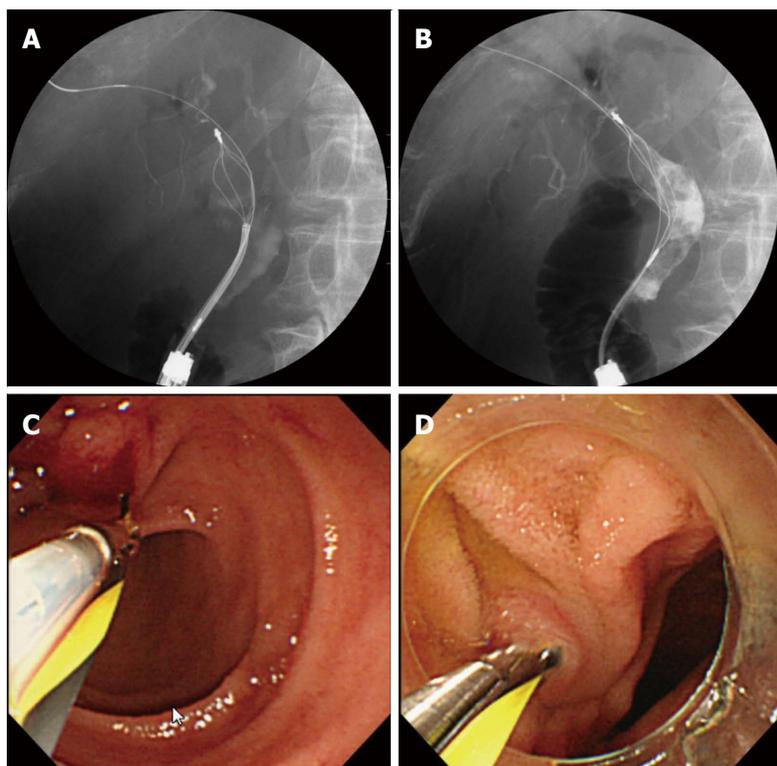


Figure 3 Therapeutic intervention. A: Radiographic image showing wire-guided mechanical lithotripter; B: Radiographic image showing wire-guided 4-wire retrieval basket; C: Insertion of a wire-guided 4-wire retrieval basket; D: Insertion of a wire-guided intraductal ultrasonographic probe into the intact papilla.

and 5.9% (2/34) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P > 0.999$). For patients in the SIF-Y0004 group with an intact papilla, the incidence of pancreatitis was 8.3% (2/29) ($P > 0.999$ vs SIF-Y0004-V01 group). The incidence of gastrointestinal perforation was 2.0% (1/50) in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 2.9% (1/34) in the SIF-Y0004 group ($P > 0.999$). Pancreatitis was mild and perforation responded to conservative therapy.

Treatment procedures

Stone extraction was performed with a wire-guided basket 27 times in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 16 times in the SIF-Y0004 group. Wire-guided endoscopic mechanical lithotripsy was performed 2 times in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group. Wire-guided intraductal ultrasonography was performed 8 times in the SIF-Y0004-V01 group and 10 times in the SIF-Y0004 group. These procedures cannot be performed using commercially available balloon enteroscopes (Figure 3).

DISCUSSION

ERCP in patients with R-Y anastomosis can be challenging because of difficulty in passing through sharp bends at anastomoses, the ligament of Treitz, or postoperative adhesions. Such factors preclude the scope tip from reaching the blind end. Colonoscopes with PB and HFT functions have been reported to reduce pain as compared with

conventional colonoscopes, with no appreciable difference in cecal intubation rate^[15-18]. Similar to a colonoscope, the presence of PB and HFT functions appeared to facilitate passage of an SBE. However, the rate of reaching the blind end in patients who undergo ERCP after intestinal reconstruction differs among hospitals. Therefore, the use of a SBE with PB and HFT functions may increase the rate of reaching the blind end. In our study, the median time required to reach the blind end was significantly shorter in SIF-Y0004-V01 group, whereas the rate of reaching the blind end did not differ significantly between the groups.

Our study has several important limitations. This study was retrospective with a small sample size. Consequently, some patient characteristics and the endoscopists who performed ERCP differed between the study groups. However, upon comparing the results according to the endoscopists who performed ERCP, the number of sessions of ERCP conducted by endoscopist A, who was most experienced in SBE-assisted ERCP, was significantly higher in the SIF-Y0004 group. Moreover, patients treated by endoscopist E, who had only conducted SBE-assisted ERCP in one patient previously, belonged to the SIF-Y0004-V01 group. Despite these differences, the median time required to reach the blind end was significantly shorter in SIF-Y0004-V01 group. The only difference between the scopes was the insertion section, suggesting that a SBE with PB and HFT

functions may be easily inserted to the blind end, even by relatively inexperienced endoscopists.

Further studies are required to confirm our results. However, the results indicate that the PB and HFT functions of SIF-Y0004-V01 facilitate ERCP and may reduce the time required to reach the blind end in patients with R-Y anastomosis.

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COMMENTS

Background

The use of balloon enteroscopes has improved the outcomes of endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) in patients with a reconstructed intestine. Many studies have suggested that a short-type balloon endoscope is effective for ERCP in such patients. However, performing ERCP with a balloon endoscope can be challenging. The development of improved models of endoscopes and specialized devices is needed to improve the rate of reaching the papilla of Vater or choledochojejunal anastomosis and to reliably perform treatment procedures.

Research frontiers

Recently, short-type single-balloon enteroscopes (SBE) were developed. These scopes have a working length of 1520 mm and a channel diameter of 3.2 mm, allowing most conventional ERCP devices to be employed. This scope also allows the use of wire-guided devices that could not be passed through enteroscopes with a 2.8 mm channel diameter.

Innovations and breakthroughs

Balloon-enteroscope assisted-ERCP is an important endoscopic breakthrough for the therapeutic management of conventionally inaccessible biliopancreatic ducts. However, several problems remain to be solved. In this study, authors used a newly designed short-type SBE equipped with passive bending section and high-force transmission functions (working length, 1520 mm; channel diameter, 3.2 mm). This scope was developed to improve the rate of reaching the blind end. It was reported that a colonoscope equipped with this technology could pass through the intestine with adhesions or hairpin bends, without distending the intestine, potentially causing less discomfort and speeding the insertion time as compared with a conventional colonoscope. This technology is expected to facilitate ERCP after intestinal reconstruction. The authors in this study evaluated the performance of this scope for ERCP in patients with a Roux-en-Y anastomosis and compared the results with the outcomes of ERCP performed with short-type SBE without these functions.

Applications

This study suggests that short-type SBE with passive bending and high-force transmission functions is useful for ERCP in patients with a Roux-en-Y anastomosis and may reduce the time required to reach the blind end.

Terminology

Roux-en-Y reconstruction of the small intestine is a frequently performed surgical technique in gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeries. The locations of the Vater's papilla and choledochojejunal anastomosis in most patients who undergo this operation differ from normal positions that are accessible with conventional endoscopes.

Peer-review

The authors investigated the effectiveness of short-type SBE with passive bending and high-force transmission functions for ERCP in patients with altered gastrointestinal anatomy, and concluded that short-type SBE is effective for ERCP in patients with a reconstructed intestine. This study clearly shows the effectiveness of short-type SBE as a clinical trial.

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