

Endoscopic ultrasound-guided recanalization of complete pharyngoesophageal stenosis



► **Fig. 1** Esophagogram showing complete obstruction of the esophagus and passage of contrast into the airway.

A 74-year-old man was referred because of complete esophageal obstruction. He had a diagnosis of T3N1 hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma and had undergone chemoradiotherapy with a complete response. He had a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) for nutrition and had had aphagia for 18 months. Assessment of the stricture using contrast swallow demonstrated complete esophageal obstruction (► **Fig. 1**), and combined anterograde (peroral) and retrograde endoscopy (through the feeding gastrostomy tract) revealed complete

esophageal obstruction at the level of the upper esophageal sphincter (► **Fig. 2**, ► **Fig. 3**). An attempt at rendezvous was unsuccessful [1].

We decided to perform the procedure guided by endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) (► **Video 1**). Through the PEG, a guidewire was advanced into the upper esophagus and an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) extractor balloon inserted over the guidewire. The balloon was filled with contrast to give a visible target on EUS. However, the balloon was not adequately identified with



► **Fig. 2** Peroral endoscopy. Complete obstruction at the upper esophageal sphincter.



► **Fig. 3** Retrograde endoscopy through the feeding gastrostomy tract. Complete obstruction in the upper esophagus.



► **Fig. 4** The guidewire passing into a suitable position in the esophagus.



Video 1 Endoscopic ultrasound-guided recanalization of complete esophageal obstruction.

the echoendoscope positioned in the hypopharynx.

On fluoroscopy, a separation between the balloon and the echoendoscope was observed, by which contrast was introduced through the lumen of the balloon. EUS now showed a good target in the esophageal lumen. With a 19-G needle, the esophageal lumen was punctured and a 0.025-inch Visiglide guidewire advanced. The echoendoscope was removed, and adequate positioning of the guidewire was verified with a gastro-scope (► Fig. 4). A 6-Fr cystotome and a 6-mm dilation balloon were used to create a passage, followed by placement of a 12-Fr jejunal probe to keep the passage patent.

After 7 days, regular dilation sessions were started with Savary bougienage to 16-mm in diameter. In two of the sessions, mitomycin was injected at the level of the stenosis. After 13 dilations, ade-

quate tolerance of a normal diet was achieved and the PEG was withdrawn. At 3 years' follow-up, no recurrence of stenosis was seen.

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Competing interests

Dr. J. R. Aparicio is a consultant for Boston Scientific.

The authors

Belén Martínez-Moreno, Lucia Medina-Prado, Sandra Baile-Maxía, Carolina Mangas-Sanjuan, Juan A. Casellas, José R. Aparicio

Unidad de Endoscopia, Servicio de Medicina Digestiva, ISABIAL Hospital General Universitario de Alicante, Spain

Corresponding author

José R. Aparicio, MD, PhD

Unidad de Endoscopia, Servicio de Medicina Digestiva, ISABIAL Hospital General Universitario de Alicante, Avda. Pintor Baeza s/n, 03013 Alicante, Spain
Fax: +34-96-5913629
japariciot@gmail.com

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