

Argon plasma coagulation of a bleeding angioectasia in a jejunal diverticulum by single-balloon enteroscopy

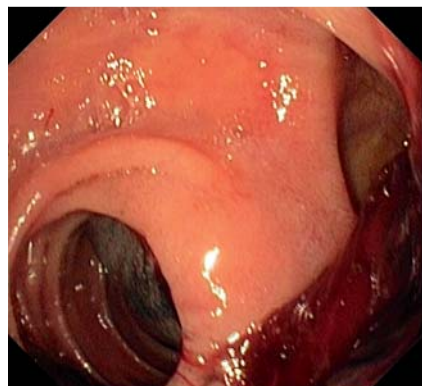


Fig. 1 A large diverticulum in the proximal jejunum with a bulky clot.

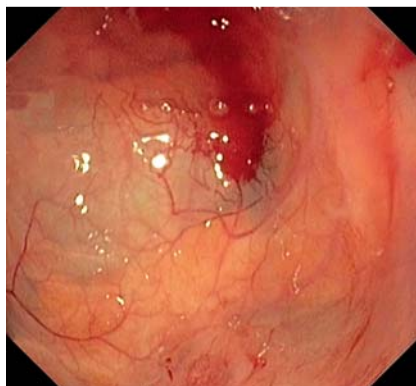


Fig. 2 Bleeding angioectasia located in the fundus of the diverticulum.

An 86-year-old woman with a history of cardiac and chronic renal failure was referred to our gastroenterology outpatient clinic because of an iron deficiency anemia and intermittent, self-limited hematochezia episodes. Colonoscopy and upper endoscopy revealed no alterations. A capsule endoscopy showed a nonbleeding angioectasia in the proximal ileum. Single-balloon enteroscopy was proposed to treat the angioectasia. During the procedure, a large jejunal diverticulum with a bulky clot was seen in the proximal jejunum (Fig. 1). The clot was removed after water irrigation, and an oozing bleeding was found from an angioectasia located in the fundus of the diverticulum (Fig. 2). Distal tattooing was performed. Bleeding was then controlled with combination therapy: first a submucosal epi-

nephine injection (Fig. 3) followed by argon plasma coagulation (APC) of the angioectasia (Fig. 4). No immediate or delayed complications were recorded, and there was no recurrence of bleeding during 1 year of follow-up.

Small-bowel diverticula are a rare condition usually characterized by mucosal and submucosal herniation through the muscular layer on the mesenteric border [1]. Although they are usually asymptomatic, malabsorption, abdominal discomfort, obstruction, bloating, bleeding, or perforation may occur [2]. Currently, capsule enteroscopy and device-assisted enteroscopy are the mainstays for diagnosis [3]. Small-bowel angioectasias are a common cause of obscure gastrointestinal bleeding, mostly in the elderly. APC by device-assisted enteroscopy has been shown

to be effective and safe in the management of small-bowel angioectasias [4]. Identification of a bleeding angioectasia in a jejunal diverticulum is an exceptional finding. The risk of diverticular perforation after APC may be increased. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case report of APC by single-balloon enteroscopy in a bleeding angioectasia located in a jejunal diverticulum.

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Competing interests: None

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Fig. 3 Appearance after submucosal epinephrine injection to control bleeding.



Fig. 4 Appearance after argon plasma coagulation of the angioectasia.