

technique spotlight

Therapeutic Endoscopic Management of Synchronous Colon Lesions

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Introduction

Synchronous lesions of the colon may present a challenge when trying to determine treatment algorithms for patients. Studies have reported the incidence of synchronous colon lesions between 4-8%^(1,2,3), and if detected early, can often change the course of therapy that patients receive. The challenge for endoscopists is synchronous lesions are difficult to identify pre-operatively because the distal lesions prevent examination of any proximal lesions. CT Colonography has been helpful to identify proximal lesions.

Case

We report a case of an 86-year-old male who presented with a high grade stricture in the lower left quadrant at the junction of the descending colon and sigmoid. The patient was scheduled for a WallFlex Colonic Stent placement to decompress the colon in preparation for surgery. A double channel scope was utilized and advanced to the level of the stricture. A 450 Jagwire™

Guidewire was advanced through the stricture and a ball tip catheter was advanced over the guidewire. The catheter allowed for the injection of contrast to identify the appropriate length of the lesion (**Figure 1**).

Upon injection, a secondary lesion was noted and was consistent with a large bowel mucosal irregularity and the appearance of a malignant stricture (**Figure 2**).



Figure 1

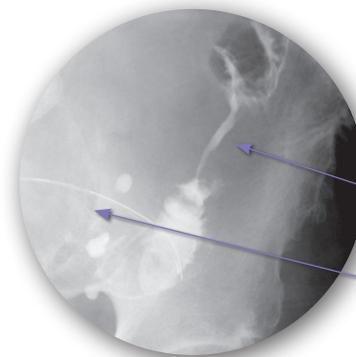


Figure 2

Lesion 2 visualized under fluoroscopy.

Scope seen at level of 1st lesion and passage of guidewire.

(Continued)

To allow optimal time for the WallFlex™ Colonic self-expanding metal stent (SEMS) to expand, a second stent procedure was scheduled 3 days later. In **Figures 3 and 4**, the compression of the stent from the primary colon lesion is observed; however the impact of the SEMS on the lesion, post-deployment, is observed 3 days later is

evident in **Figure 4**. In order for endoscopists to safely consider pre-operative colonoscopy or secondary stenting of synchronous lesions, Vitale and colleagues waited an average of 5 days (range 4-8) and completed the colonoscopy under fluoroscopy⁽⁴⁾.



Figure 3

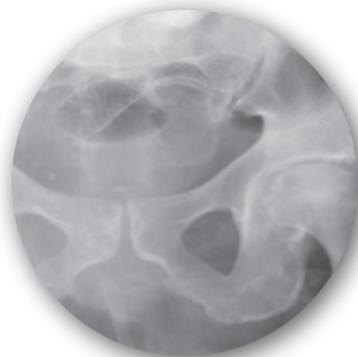


Figure 4

In **Figures 5 and 6**, during the second procedure, the colonoscope is fluoroscopically seen inside the first stent. Similar techniques were used to traverse the synchronous lesion utilizing a double channel scope, 450 Jagwire™ Guidewire, contrast and a biliary extraction balloon.

In **Figure 7** it is observed that both lesions have been traversed by SEMS. It is noted that the waste in the proximal second stent is consistent with a stricture.

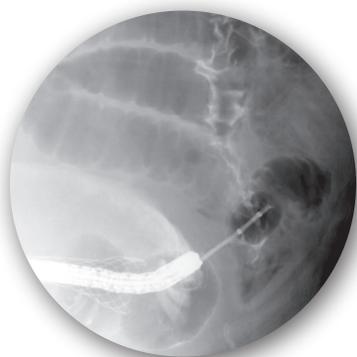


Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

Recommendations

The management of acute colonic obstruction would benefit from a multi-disciplinary approach to achieve the optimal outcome for the patient, whether it is survival or palliation. Total large bowel evaluation, preferably using colonoscopy under fluoroscopy, is essential in patients

with cancer of the large bowel^(4, 5). The use of colonic stents to relieve colonic obstructions may allow for a more complete colon examination and identification of synchronous lesions.

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