

Radiation-free digital cholangioscopy-guided removal of bile duct foreign body and holmium laser lithotripsy for large common bile duct stones

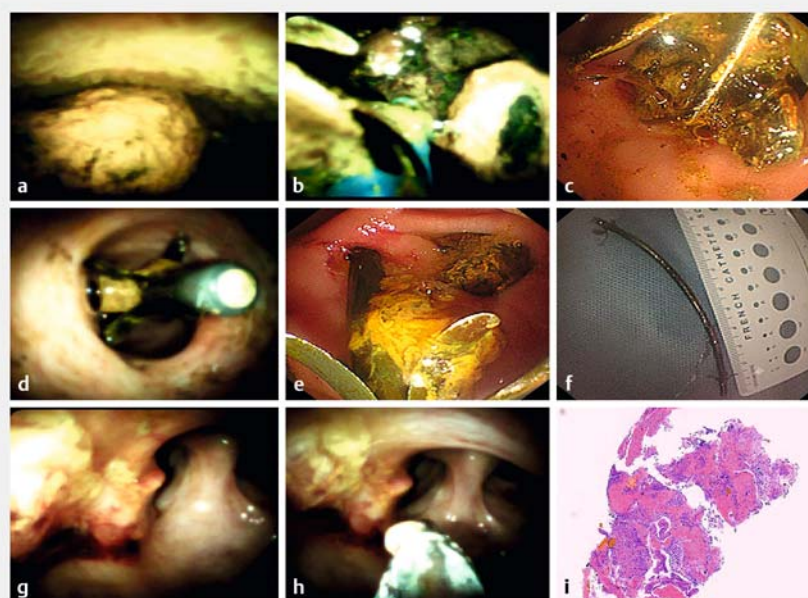
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Digital cholangioscopy (SpyGlass; Boston Scientific, Marlborough, Massachusetts, USA) allows direct visualization of the biliary system for therapeutic interventions [1]. This is a report of cholangioscopy-guided removal of a biliary plastic stent and holmium laser lithotripsy for large common bile duct (CBD) stones.

A 77-year-old woman presented to our hospital with bile duct stones. The patient had undergone laparoscopic choledocholithotomy T-tube drainage and laparoscopic cholecystectomy more than a decade previously for acute cholangitis and cholecystitis. She underwent further endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography with biliary stenting for choledocholithiasis 6 months prior to presentation. The laboratory findings and physical examination were normal. The abdominal computed tomography scan revealed dilatation of the bile duct with intraductal high-density stent image and large bile duct stones (► Fig. 1). Radiation-free digital cholangioscopy was performed, and successful biliary cannulation was confirmed by visible bile aspiration and biliary view [2]. Cholangioscopy showed a large stone and a plastic stent in the CBD (► Fig. 2). We first fragmented the stone using holmium laser lithotripsy (1.2J/20Hz; Dahua Systems, Wuxi, Jiangsu, China) and removed the fragments with a mesh basket and balloon catheter (Olympus Medical, Tokyo, Japan) [3]. Subsequently, we removed the plastic stent with a specialized mesh basket (Microtech, Nanjing, China). When we probed the hepatic ducts, mucosal edema and hyperplasia were observed, and biopsies were performed using SpyBite (Boston Scientific). Finally, a 7-Fr plastic biliary stent (Microtech) was inserted after the intervention (► Video 1). No complications were recorded, and histopathological examination showed inflammatory cell infiltration.



► **Fig. 1** Computed tomography scan showed a bright linear object extending from the bile duct to the left intrahepatic biliary tree, and a slightly high-density shadow was found proximal to the plastic stent (yellow arrow).



► **Fig. 2** Cholangioscopy findings. **a** A bile duct stone was found in the common bile duct. **b, c** Holmium laser lithotripsy and basket removal were carried out. **d** The biliary plastic stent was found after stone removal. **e, f** Grasping of the plastic stent wall and its removal. **g** Mucosal edema, erythema, and polypoid bulge were seen when the hepatic duct was probed. **h** Biopsy was performed using SpyBite forceps (Boston Scientific, Marlborough, Massachusetts, USA) under direct visualization. **i** Histopathological examination showed inflammatory cell infiltration.



Video 1 Radiation-free digital cholangioscopy-guided removal of bile duct foreign body and holmium laser lithotripsy for large common bile duct stones.

In conclusion, the new digital cholangioscope equipped with higher image quality and a larger working channel allows for a variety of direct-view biliary therapeutic interventions. Meanwhile, radiation hazards can be avoided in conjunction with radiation-free cannulation techniques.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Yinqiu Zhang **Yadong Feng**

Department of Gastroenterology, Zhongda Hospital, School of Medicine, Southeast University, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China

Corresponding author

Yadong Feng, MD

Department of Gastroenterology, Zhongda Hospital, School of Medicine, Southeast University, 87 Dingjia Bridge Hunan Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210009, China
drfengyd@126.com

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