Treatment of Repeated Gastric Band Prolapse after Endoscopic Repair: A Case Report

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Case Reports

Case 1

A 35-year-old woman with BMI (body mass index) 40 underwent LAGB procedure to treat her obesity using the pars flaccida technique with no implication suture, and port placement under the anterior sheath of the rectus abdominis muscle (Figure 1).

The patient presented a history of onset of band prolapse 22 months after the LAGB procedure (Figure 2). The symptoms...
of prolapse were sudden abdominal pain and repeated vomiting.

An endoscopic procedure was performed after deflation of the band under intravenous anesthesia. Band prolapse was diagnosed and treated by endoscopy. After a prolapsed stomach pouch was found, we inflated it with air. The prolapsed stomach pouch was gradually reduced as the stomach was inflated with air. The stomach was fully reduced and finally the band returned to its normal position. After reduction, the entire lumen of the stomach was examined to check its normality (Figure 3).

However, the patient had the second episode of band prolapse that required endoscopic treatment five months after the first one (Figure 4). We treat edit with the same endoscopic technique as above (Figure 5).

The patient had recurrence that was treated by the endoscopic reduction technique 13 months after the second episode. The third endoscopic treatment of band prolapse was performed for an hour resulting in failure. She was sent to operating room and underwent laparoscopic reduction with two-row gastric plication (Figure 6). The gastric greater curvature was plicated using 2/0 prolene from fundus at the level of diaphragm preserving the His angle to 10 cm proximal to the pylorus. It took 70 min for the whole procedure with 3 trocars under general anesthesia. The patient was discharged in good condition 3 days after surgery. Fifteen months later, there was no evidence of recurrence (Figure 8).

**Case 2**

A 43-year-old woman with BMI 42 underwent LAGB procedure to treat her obesity using the pars flaccida technique with no implication suture, and port placement under the anterior sheath of the rectus abdominis muscle (Figure 9).

The patient presented a history of onset of prolapse 10 months after the LAGB procedure (Figure 10). The symptoms of prolapse were sudden abdominal pain and repeated vomiting.

The endoscopic procedure was performed after deflation of the band under intravenous anesthesia. Band prolapse was diagnosed and treated by endoscopy. After a prolapsed stomach pouch was found, we inflated it with air. The prolapsed stomach was gradually reduced as the stomach was inflated with air. The
stomach was fully reduced and finally the band returned to its normal position. After reduction, the entire lumen of the stomach was examined to check for normality (Figure 11).

However, this patient had the second and third episode of band prolapse which required endoscopic treatment 4 months after the first and second reduction respectively (Figure 12, 13). We treated it with the same endoscopic technique as above (Figure 14, 15).

The patient had the fourth band prolapse one month after the third episode. The endoscopic treatment of band prolapse was performed for an hour resulting in failure. She was sent to operating room and underwent laparoscopic reduction with one-row gastric plication (Figure 16, 17). The gastric greater curvature was plicated using 2/0 prolene from fundus at the level of diaphragm preserving the His angle to 10cm proximal to the pylorus. It took 75min for this procedure with 3 trocars under general anesthesia. The patient was discharged in good condition 3 days after surgery. Five months later, there was no evidence of recurrence (Figure 18).

**Discussion**

Since its first introduction in 1993, LAGB has been accepted as a reliable surgical option for treating obesity thanks to its safety, minimal invasiveness and effectiveness. However, bariatric surgeons have largely abandoned LAGB since 2008.
Band prolapse is a significant and common late complication after LAGB. The incidence of band prolapse within the first 5 years is still as much as 5%, requiring operative procedures. It can occur anteriorly or posteriorly. The common symptoms and signs of band prolapse include food intolerance, vomiting, abdominal pain, reflux esophagitis, pouch dilatation, dehydration and muscle weakness [7].

This can be diagnosed by X-ray with a barium contrast medium or by endoscopy [8,9]. A delay in diagnosis can cause hypokalemia with or without loss of consciousness, gastric perforation or pouch necrosis leading to death [10]. As band prolapses do not respond to conservative measures, many surgeons advocate surgical options including repositioning of the band, replacement with a new one or even removal of the band [11].

We evaluated the stomach by endoscopy before surgery and every 6 months after the LAGB procedure, and when the patients had symptoms of prolapse such as sudden abdominal pain and repeated vomiting.

An endoscopic procedure was performed after deflation of the band when the patient presented these symptoms of prolapse. When diagnosed for band prolapse, the patient was sent to the endoscopy room under intravenous anesthesia. If we found a prolapsed stomach pouch, we inserted an endoscope and then inflated it with air. The prolapsed stomach pouch was gradually reduced as the stomach was inflated with air. The stomach was fully reduced and finally the band returned to its normal position. After reduction, we examined the entire lumen of the stomach to check on its normality.

Not all anterior band prolapses have reduced by band deflation and endoscopic approach. When we found any sign of infection or perforation inside the stomach, we fixed it
operatively. Otherwise, almost all the band prolapses after such suture less LAGB without delay in diagnosis can be fixed easily with an endoscopic procedure. Those patients with repeated band prolapses could be treated by one-row or two-row plication technique. The gastric greater curvature was plicated using 2/0 prolene from fundus at the level of diaphragm preserving the His angle to 10cm proximal to the pylorus. The aim of the plication was restriction of the prolapsed portion of the stomach via folds from its own wall [12]. However, we need long term follow-up to evaluate the efficacy of the gastric plication and endoscopic treatment of the band prolapse.

Conclusion

Even though endoscopic treatment of the band prolapse is safe and feasible, two patients with repeated band prolapse were treated with laparoscopic gastric plication technique. We need long-term follow up to evaluate the efficacy of the gastric plication and endoscopic treatment of the band prolapse.

Conflict of Interest

Il authors Sehoon Kang and Jisook Yoo have no conflicts of interest or financial ties to disclosure.

References


