SCIENTIFIC LETTER

Gastric per-oral endoscopic pyloromyotomy in the treatment of refractory gastroparesis: Report on the first case performed in Mexico

Piloromiotomía endoscópica por vía oral para el tratamiento de gastroparesia refractaria: reporte del primer caso en México

Gastroparesis is a frequent pathology in the Mexican population. The aim of this report was to describe the case of a Mexican patient with refractory gastroparesis treated with the G-POEM procedure.

A 25-year-old woman had a past medical history of well-controlled hypothyroidism and chronic constipation that did not respond to medical treatment. She required a subtotal colectomy due to colonic inertia, and in a second surgical stage, she underwent bowel transit restitution that was performed 10 years ago. Her current illness began 4 years prior to her hospital admission, with nausea, vomiting, early satiety, and a 15-kg weight loss. The evaluation protocol began with endoscopic study that ruled out mechanical obstruction. A gastric emptying scan showed 46% retention at 4 h, resulting in the diagnosis of idiopathic gastroparesis. Medical and dietary treatment was begun, providing partial symptom improvement, and thus the gastroparesis was considered treatment-refractory. The G-POEM procedure was planned, once the patient gave her informed consent and authorization from the hospital ethics committee was obtained. The patient’s quality of life and the magnitude of her symptoms were evaluated prior to the G-POEM through the Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index (GCSI) questionnaire, with a score of 37/45.

The patient fasted 24 h before the procedure and was given 1 g IV of cefotaxime as prophylaxis. A conventional model EG590WR endoscope (Fujinon, Saitama, Japan) was employed, along with a DH-28GR hood (Fujinon, Saitama, Japan), and an ERBE VIO-200D electrosurgical unit with a hybrid knife (Tübingen, Germany). The parameters were: injection (ERBEJET, effect 50), incision (ENDOCUT Q, effect 3, cutting duration 3, cutting interval 3), tunnelization (SWIFT COAG, effect 3 at 70 W), myotomy (ENDOCUT Q), and hemostasis (SOFT COAG, effect 3 at 40 W). Hemoclips (Boston Scientific, USA) and a CO2 insufflator (ENDOSTRA-TUS, Medivators, Minneapolis, MN, USA) were also used. The G-POEM technique consisted of the following steps: 1) revision and injection: the antrum was viewed and a combination of 0.9% sodium chloride solution with 0.5% methylene blue was injected 5 cm before the pylorus, above the lesser curvature; 2) incision: a 20-mm longitudinal incision was made; 3) tunnelization: a submucosal tunnel was created from that point until passing the pylorus and reaching the proximal region of the duodenum; 4) myotomy: total thickness myotomy of the pyloric muscle was performed 2 cm proximal to it; 5) closure: 5 hemoclips were placed...
Figure 1  Steps of the G-POEM procedure. A) Initial viewing of the pylorus prior to the procedure. B) Injection. C) Longitudinal incision. D) Creation of the submucosal tunnel. E) Myotomy of the pyloric muscle. F) Incision at the end of the procedure. G) Incision closure with hemoclips. H) The pylorus is clearly observed to be more open after the procedure.

Figure 2  Bowel transit with water-soluble contrast material 24 h after the procedure. The images show A) the beginning of the passage of the water-soluble contrast medium with no leakage and B) adequate passage into the duodenum in less than 2 min.

(fig. 1). Procedure duration was 60 min and there were no complications. Bowel transit with water-soluble contrast material at 24 h ruled out leakage into the submucosal tunnel, and adequate passage of the contrast medium into the duodenum was observed less than 2 min from its administration, indicating treatment success (fig. 2). Oral fluid intake was begun and the patient was sent home 48 h after the procedure with no complications. At the check-up one week later, symptoms had improved 33% (GSCI score of 23/45). Control gastric emptying scan showed an 8% emptying delay at 240 min.

In conclusion, G-POEM is a technically feasible procedure at centers with experience in endoscopic dissection and is a new alternative in the treatment of patients that have refractory gastroparesis or are at high risk for surgical morbidity and mortality. The procedure offers good initial results in terms of safety and efficacy, as shown in the present case, but intermediate and long-term prospective studies with a greater number of patients are needed to determine the true role of this procedure in the treatment of gastroparesis.

Conflict of Interest
The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

References


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