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<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>OKADA, Yusaku; YOSHIMURA, Naoki; TAKAMI, Nobuhiko; KAKEHI, Yoshiyuki; TERACHI, Toshiro; YOSHIDA, Osamu</td>
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Kyoto University
MAINZ POUCH WITH APPENDIX-UMBILICAL STOMA USING CATHETERIZABLE CONDUIT ELONGATED WITH CONTINUOUS CECAL SEGMENT: A CASE REPORT

Yusaku Okada, Naoki Yoshimura, Nobuhiko Takami
Yoshiyuki Kakehi, Toshiro Terachi and Osamu Yoshida
From the Department of Urology, Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

The Mainz pouch with appendix-umbilical stoma is a very stable method for continent, self-catheterizable urinary reservoir in the presence of a healthy appendix. If the appendix is too short or an unexpected stenosis is seen at its distal portion, the elongation of the conduit using a part of the cecum and the implantation of the conduit to the pouch by the Mitrofanoff method can be a good alternative procedure. We herein report our experience in a 53-year-old male with high grade, invasive bladder tumor, who underwent cystourethrectomy and appendix Mainz pouch operation using the above technique.

Key words: Continent urinary diversion, Appendix Mainz pouch, Short appendix, Cecal elongation

INTRODUCTION

The Mainz pouch with appendix-umbilical stoma can be one of the most attractive forms of the catheterizable cutaneous continent diversions now available, in the presence of the healthy, good appendix, which can be used as an excellent catheterizable conduit. However, the appendix is not always available. Even if it is present, the lumen may be obliterated due to inflammation, carcinoid tumor or mucocele in about one third of the cases. When the appendix is too short to reach the skin or it has a single stenosis located in the distal portion, elongation of the catheterizable conduit using an autosuture can be a good alternative method. Among 12 patients who underwent urinary reconstruction using the appendix either as a catheterizable conduit or as a urinary conduit, one patient with the shortened appendix is herein reported focusing on the operative procedure and its clinical implications.

OPERATIVE TECHNIQUE

The method was originally reported by Mitchell's group in constructing continent appendico-vesicostomy in children with neurogenic bladder or vesical extrophy to facilitate intermittent catheterization. The portion of cecum is tubularized to elongate the conduit, using a GIA stapler (GIA 50P No. 030470, cartilage No. 030424, US Surgical Co., Norwalk, Connecticut, USA), and the freed appendico-cecal tube is reimplanted by the Mitrofanoff's method. Care should be taken to preserve the blood supply from the appendicular artery, and the appendix is severed from the inferior aspect of the cecum, placing the jaws of the stapler in such a way to lengthen the available tube. The isolated appendix is opened distally and proximally. Implantation of the conduit was performed along the tenia by Leadbetter's method from outside of the pouch.

CASE REPORT

The patient was a 53-year-old male suffering from invasive bladder cancer (transitional cell carcinoma, G3, pT1b with diffuse carcinoma in situ (CIS)). He denied any history of appendicitis. Radical cystourethrectomy with a Mainz pouch was performed in January, 1995. During the operation, a 15 cm portion of the right colon and 30 cm portion of the terminal ileum was isolated. The appendix appeared to be healthy and it measured 8 cm in length. From the opened distal tip, bougienage was tried. At 3 cm from the distal tip, however, there was a severe stenosis of the lumen. The cecum was then incised and antegrade bougienage was tried. There was no additional obstruction. A 3 cm long distal segment of the appendix was cut off including the stenotic portion to render a 5 cm long appendix. The appendicular conduit was elongated with the cecum using a GIA stapler, making a 9 cm long conduit (Fig. 1).

After completion of Mainz pouch, the freed appendico-cecal tube was implanted along the tenia using Leadbetter's method. A 3 cm long distal portion was embedded submucosally. The proximal portion was anastomosed to the umbilical funnel end-to-end to make the appendico-cutaneous stoma.

The postoperative course was uneventful. The patient started self-catheterization three weeks after
the operation using a 14 Fr. catheter without any difficulty. The capacity of the pouch became 500 cc in three weeks, and he has been well without recurrence of tumor for 12 months postoperatively.

**DISCUSSION**

The Mainz pouch with appendix-umbilical stoma can be one of the most attractive forms of the catheterizable cutaneous continent diversions now available, in the presence of a healthy, good appendix, which can be used as an excellent catheterizable conduit. The length of the appendix must be at least 9–10 cm and it should be dilatable up to 16–18 Fr. without difficulty by bougienage. The submucosally embedded in situ appendix is brought to the umbilicus and approximated to the umbilical funnel.

The characteristics of this method are: 1) excellent body image because of disappearance of intestinal mucosa from the skin level, 2) easy catheterization even for obese patients or patients confined to a wheelchair, 3) complete continence, and 4) rare complication of parastomal hernia due to strong fascia at the umbilicus. However, the appendix is not always available. The frequency of histological abnormalities in the appendix is reportedly relatively high; fibrous obliteration in 28.7%, carcinoid tumor in 1.6%, and mucocele in 0.8% out of 122 urological patients. When the stenosis is not complicated and located in the distal portion, elongation of the conduit using the cecum is a useful method to obtain adequate length. In isolating the conduit with a good blood supply, it is important to avoid injury to the appendicular artery which anastomoses to the posterior cecal artery and to preserve the cecoappendicular artery (Fig. 2).

The disadvantage of the appendix stoma is that only a narrow catheter (14 to 16 Fr.) can be used for the drainage of urine, making it difficult to irrigate the reservoir to remove mucus. If the appendix turns out to be unusable as a conduit, our policy is to change it to the Indiana pouch by the ileal patching method. Therefore, the appendix should be examined for its patency at an early step of the operative procedure. In the presence of a healthy, good appendix, we feel that the Mainz pouch with appendix-umbilical stoma can be one of the most attractive forms of the catheterizable cutaneous continent diversions now available.

**REFERENCES**


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