

Laparoscopic Puestow: lateral pancreaticojejunostomy

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Abstract

Introduction Chronic pancreatitis is a painful inflammatory disease that leads to progressive and irreversible destruction of pancreatic parenchyma [1]. A lateral pancreaticojejunostomy, also known as the Puestow procedure, is performed for symptomatic chronic pancreatitis associated with a dilated pancreatic duct secondary to calcifications or strictures [2]. An open approach is used traditionally due to the complexity of the case, and there have only been a handful of laparoscopic case reports [3]. This video depicts a laparoscopic lateral pancreaticojejunostomy for chronic pancreatitis.

Methods A 45-year-old gentleman with a 20-year history of chronic alcohol abuse presented with diffuse abdominal pain. His pain was worse postprandially and associated with loose stools. A computed tomography scan revealed multiple calcified deposits within the body and tail of the pancreas, and a dilated pancreatic duct measuring 1.4 cm with a proximal obstructing calcified stone. A 5-port foregut technique was used, and a 15-cm pancreatic ductotomy was performed with an ultrasonic scalpel. Calcified stones were cleared from the duct, and a roux-en-y pancreaticojejunostomy was performed using a hand-sewn technique.

Results The patient had a relatively uncomplicated hospital course with return of bowel function on postoperative

day 4. His patient-controlled analgesic device was discontinued on post operative day 3. He was ambulating, tolerating a regular diet and discharged home on postoperative day 5. At 12- and 26-month follow-up, he remains off narcotics, but still requires 1–2 tabs of pancreatic enzyme replacement per meal. Most importantly, he has not had any alcohol for over 2 years.

Conclusion The two primary goals in treating chronic pancreatitis include long-term pain relief and improvements in quality of life [4]. For patients with chronic pancreatitis and a dilated pancreatic duct, a laparoscopic lateral pancreaticojejunostomy may be an effective approach to decrease pain and improve quality of life.

References

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