

Background

- Short, post-surgical, benign strictures that are refractory to conventional dilation measures can present a challenge for endoscopists.
- Standard therapies include balloon dilation and intralesional steroids.
- We demonstrate off-label utilization of Lumen-Apposing Self-Expandable Metallic Stents (LASEMS) to treat these recalcitrant strictures.

Case Description

- 49 year old female with history of Roux-En-Y gastric bypass developed a “pinpoint” gastrojejunal (GJ) anastomotic stricture (figure 1) and inability to tolerate a solid diet. Her BMI dropped to 16.
- Stricture refractory to 7 upper endoscopies with balloon dilations and steroid injections.
- A 20 mm x 10 mm LASEMS was placed through the stricture and removed after 8 weeks.
- Patient tolerated diet for 4 months until symptoms recurred, with return of stricture to “pinpoint” size (figure 2).
- Twelve-month trial of LASEMS initiated:
 - Stent exchanged every 2 months to prevent epithelialization.
 - GJ anastomosis increased from “pinpoint” to 18mm at conclusion of trial (figure 3).
- Two years post-trial, continues to tolerate solid diet and maintain healthy BMI.



Figure 1: Initial “pinpoint” gastrojejunal anastomosis stricture.

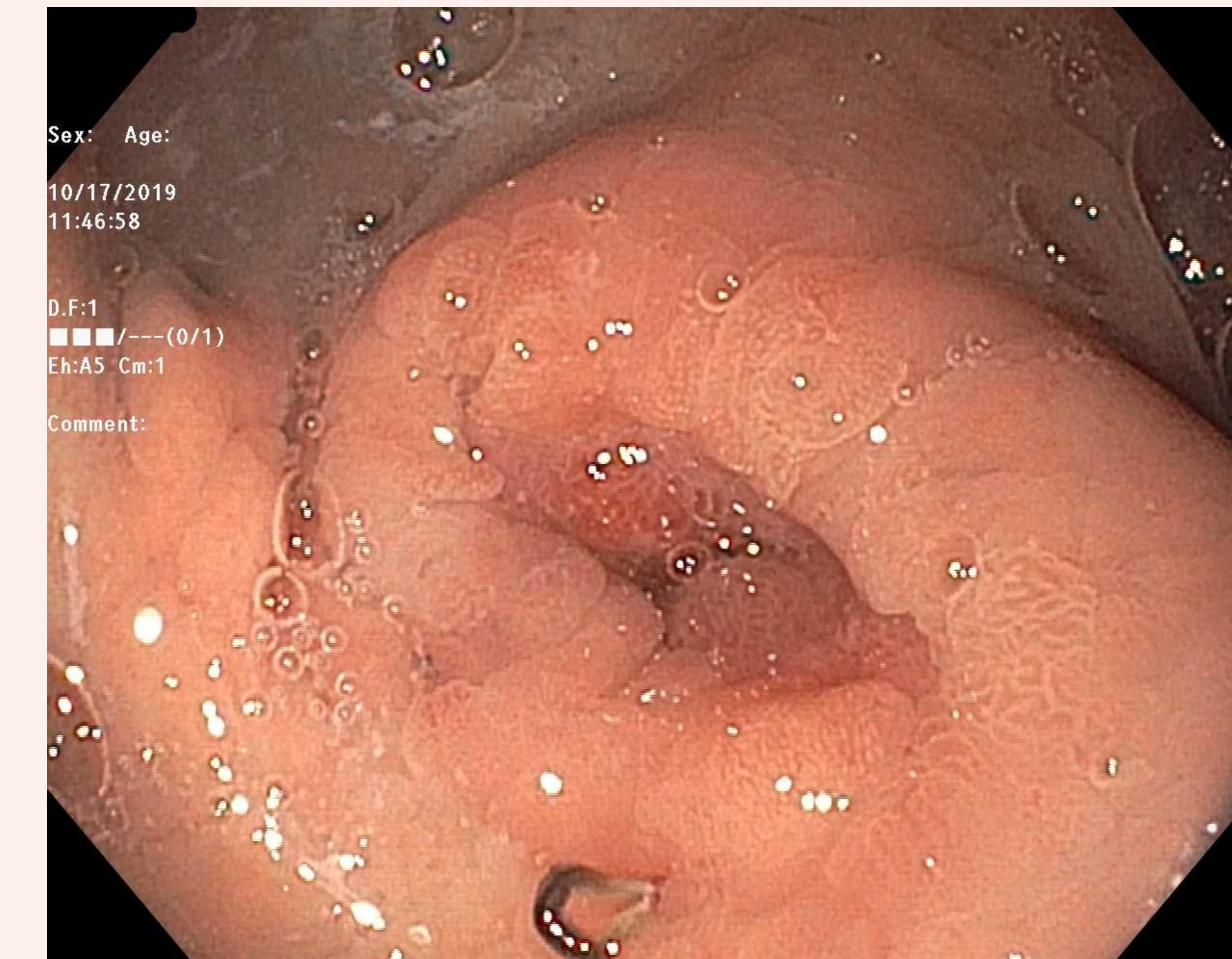


Figure 2: Return to “pinpoint” stricture 4 months after 2-month LASEMS dwell time.



Figure 3: Successful dilation of gastrojejunal anastomosis stricture to 18mm following 12 month-trial of LASEMS.

Discussion

- LASEMS are saddle-shaped with flanges on either side of a smaller lumen.
 - Flanges pose less migration risk compared to conventional tubular stents in small strictures (10-15% vs 30-40%) [2, 5].
- LASEMS are FDA-approved for pancreatic fluid collections.
- An off-label use is treatment of gastrointestinal strictures refractory to conventional dilation [1, 3, 4].
 - Long-term efficacy is not well documented in literature.
 - Choi et al reported only 59.5% efficacy in 37 cases; though median dwell-time was 70 days [3].
 - This patient’s first trial of a 2-month LASEMS dwell-time proved ineffective.
- This case shows promising, long-lasting results from a longer, 12-month trial of LASEMS for a recalcitrant GJ stricture.

References

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4. Moreira, M., et al., *Lumen-Apposing Metal Stents (Lams) in the Management of Refractory Gi Stenosis: A Series of 3 Cases*. *GE Port J Gastroenterol*, 2022. **29**(1): p. 64-67.
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