INTRODUCTION

The use of metal stents in the gastrointestinal tract is one of the most influential developments in the interventional endoscopy. The first clinical application of a metal stent in a non-vascular organ was on the tracheobronchial tree by Wallace et al.1 Metal stent technology has evolved rapidly over the past decade. Recent technological developments in interventional endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) and metal stents have facilitated EUS-guided procedures using metal stents in various gastrointestinal conditions.

Using linear-array echoendoscopes, a needle can be advanced into the biliary or pancreatic duct under real-time ultrasonographic guidance without the risk of injury to the intervening vessel. Because the common bile duct and the pancreatic duct are near the transducer of the EUS probe, both can be visualized without difficulty, and real-time puncture can be done easily, thus providing ductal drainage using endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)-based techniques.2,3 Over the past decades, the availability of the linear-array echoendoscope has led to the development of multiple EUS-related endoscopic techniques, such as pancreatic fluid collection (PFC) drainage, pancreaticogastrostomy, EUS-guided antegrade cholangiography and hepaticogastrostomy (HGS), and choledochogastrostomy.4 In the early 2000s, the availability of a large-channel echoendoscope induced the first reported case of EUS-guided transgastric (EUS-HGS) or transduodenal (choledochoduodenostomy, EUS-CDS) biliary drainage using stents by Giovannini et al.5,6 EUS has since evolved continuously from a only diagnostic imaging method to an invasive therapeutic procedure. We will review new EUS-guided metal stents and future developments in gastrointestinal diseases and other fields.

LITERATURE REVIEW METHODOLOGY

On November 15, 2015, a PubMed search using the EUS in combination with words related to metal stents, such as “metal stent” and “therapeutic EUS,” was done. Next, the inclusion...
criteria were (1) original research articles (randomized controlled trials, prospective and retrospective studies), systemic reviews, and case series; (2) case number ≥20; and (3) English-language publications (Fig. 1).

The publications and their references were reviewed manually. References to proper studies and review articles were searched manually to survey additional related studies. The bibliographies of the review articles were scrutinized to identify other references that might have been missed in the initial search. Finally, the two authors of this article jointly reviewed each published paper, and all relevant information was extracted.

**PANCREATIC FLUID COLLECTION**

PFCs include peri-PFCs, pancreatic pseudocysts, acute necrotic collections, and walled-off pancreatic necrosis. PFCs generally require drainage when they cause symptoms such as pain, gastric outlet obstruction (GOO), and/or bile duct obstruction, or if they are infected. The management of PFCs has traditionally been surgical, but surgery may be associated with relatively higher rates of complications and mortality. With more recent technological advances and experience, endoscopic drainage is widely accepted and has replaced surgery as the first-line therapy for PFCs. EUS-guided drainage using FCSEMSs was comparable to that using plastic stents regarding technical feasibility, efficacy, and safety. The median procedure time using a FCSEMS was significantly shorter than that using plastic stents (15.0 minutes vs. 29.5 minutes, p<0.01). A prospective comparative study demonstrated that EUS-guided PFC drainage using a FCSEMS was comparable to that using plastic stents regarding clinical success rate (16% vs. 31%, p=0.006) compared with plastic stents. A recent study has shown that EUS-guided drainage of PFCs using FCSEMSs improved clinical outcomes (complete resolution of pseudocyst, 98% vs. 89%, p=0.01) and reduced adverse event rates (16% vs. 31%, p=0.006) compared with plastic stents.

Recently, endoscopists have seen the development and commercial release of specially designed, fully covered, transmural self-expanding metal stents (SEMSs), such as the AXIOS (Boston Scientific, Natick, MA, USA) and Nagi (Tae-woong Medical, Goyang, Korea) stents, which are designed with wide flanges on both ends to prevent migration (Fig. 2). These devices have a wide diameter (10 to 16 mm) and short length, and to some extent, they can actively hold a PFC in the lumen. Endoscopic necrosectomy can be performed directly through these devices owing to their wider diameter. Large cohort studies have demonstrated high technical success rates (91% to 98%) and clinical success rates, defined as resolution of clinical symptoms with a decrease in PFC size to ≤2 cm on imaging (81% to 100%).

Few data are available regarding the proper period for accurate assessment of PFC content, which is critical for the selection of the number and type of stent to be placed. The clinical success rate of EUS-guided PFCs drainage is directly related to the necrotic content of PFCs, which increases the risk of occlusion of the stents typically used for this type of drainage procedure. Historically, double-pigtail plastic stents have been the mainstay of therapy. However, because of their small caliber, plastic stents can become occluded with the development of secondary infection; thus, increasing the need for re-intervention and surgical treatment when endoscopic re-treatment fails. Moreover, if a necrosectomy is required following drainage by plastic stents, the endoscopist must first remove the stents and then drive the scope through the drainage tract to extract the necrotic material, which often requires multiple tract dilations and scope insertions into the PFC and increases the risk of procedural morbidity.

To overcome these limitations, fully covered self-expanding metal stents (FCSEMSs) and specially designed lumen-apposing metal stents (LAMSs) in which both ends are flared have been proposed, with the rationale of providing a large opening that would theoretically allow for longer patency, reduce rates of stent occlusion and decrease the probability of secondary infections, and provide a lasting approach route to perform multiple tissue sections via necrosectomy. In a retrospective cohort study including 230 patients with PFCs, especially pancreatic pseudocysts, EUS-guided drainage using FCSEMSs improved clinical outcomes (complete resolution of pseudocyst, 98% vs. 89%, p=0.01) and reduced adverse event rates (16% vs. 31%, p=0.006) compared with plastic stents. In a prospective comparative study demonstrated that EUS-guided PFC drainage using a FCSEMS was comparable to that using plastic stents regarding technical feasibility, efficacy, and safety. The median procedure time using a FCSEMS was significantly shorter than that using plastic stents (15.0 minutes vs. 29.5 minutes, p<0.01).
stent removal. One prospective, single-center study showed the safety and efficacy of short-duration (3 weeks) FCSEMS placement for symptomatic pseudocysts, along with selective pancreatic ductal stenting in patients with persistent ductal leak. During a median follow-up of 306 days, two recurrences (4.7%) were detected in 42 patients. This study demonstrated that short-term placement of FCSEMSs with pancreatic ductal stenting for the treatment of pseudocysts is safe and effective.

FCSEMSs have been used with the hope that a large luminal diameter would facilitate more effective and lasting drainage. However, unfortunately, SEMSs may migrate and have been reported to cause mucosal injury and bleeding from erosion of the opposite wall of the cavity once the PFC is resolved. A recent study showed a 26% incidence of late adverse events after FCSEMS placement for PFCs. A systematic review including 17 studies and 881 patients who underwent endoscopic treatment of PFCs using plastic versus biliary FCSEMSs did not support routine deployment of metal stents for drainage of PFCs, reporting similar pooled success rates for metal stents (81.9%) and plastic stents (80.7%) and higher pooled complication rates (such as bleeding, secondary infection and stent migration) with metal stents (23.3%) compared with plastic stents (16.1%).

Several novel LAMSs specially designed for transmural drainage allow single-step deployment and effective drainage of cystic fluid with minimal stent migration (Table 1). The AXIOS and Nagi stents have high reported treatment success rates of 93% to 100%, but these results are limited to small studies of 10 to 33 patients. Further randomized trials are needed to justify the use of metal stents for PFC drainage.

Despite advances in metal stent development and the theoretical advantages of metal stents over plastic stents, there is no universal agreement as to which type of stent should be used for drainage of PFCs. Based on the current literature, one stent type cannot be clearly recommended over other types for EUS-guided drainage of PFCs. Endoscopists should...
choose a stent type they are comfortable using and one that they feel is most appropriate for each individual case. The AXIOS and Nagi stents may be preferable when necrosectomy is required, because the endoscopist can drive the scope directly through the stent and into the PFC for removal of solid necrotic material.

**PANCREATIC DUCT DRAINAGE**

The development of interventional EUS has provided an alternative means of relieving pancreatic duct obstruction that is not possible by ERCP through transpapillary access to the pancreatic duct, especially in pancreaticojejunostomy after Whipple resection, which can result in recurrent acute pancreatitis, main pancreatic duct (MPD) stenosis due to chronic pancreatitis, or post-pancreatic duct damage after failure of ERCP. EUS-guided transmural stenting using plastic stents was performed in cases in which advancing a guidewire across the anastomosis site was impossible, when the major papilla was under complete pancreatic obstruction, or when the MPD had a tortuous configuration. However, rates of complications, including bleeding, fever, perforation, and hematoma, are typically higher for transmural stenting than for simple rendezvous placement. FCEMSs have not yet been used for EUS pancreatic duct drainage with transmural stenting because of concerns regarding stent migration and a cross-stream blockage of the MPD that covers the membrane of the FCEMS. Recently, Oh et al. showed that EUS pancreatic duct drainage using a FCEMS may be technically feasible and relatively safe without adverse events related to FCEMSs, including stent migration, clogging, and stent-induced ductal stricture. In the future, FCEMSs should be further modified with an anti-migration structure and appropriate diameter to decrease the risk of branch duct blockage, and a well-designed randomized controlled trial is also needed.

**BILE DUCT DRAINAGE**

In cases in which papillotomy and bile duct cannulation are not successful, either because of an altered anatomy by previous gastrointestinal surgery or because of a tight tumor stenosis, surgery and/or percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage (PTBD), which have higher morbidity and mortality rates than those of ERCP, have been suggested as alternative methods. EUS-guided biliary drainage (EUS-BD) is considered an effective salvage procedure for failed ERCP in patients with unresectable malignant biliary obstruction. In patients with malignant distal common bile duct obstruction requiring SEMS placement, the short-term composite success defined as the ability to complete the intended therapeutic procedure in a single session and resulting in a greater than 50% decrease in bilirubin over 2 weeks using EUS-BD was reported to be comparable to that of ERCP in a retrospective analysis.

In the early 2000s, a large-channel echoendoscope made possible the first reported case of EUS-BD including transgastric or transduodenal biliary drainage, which had been initially described for palliative management of malignant biliary obstruction. The different access routes (transhepatic or extrahepatic), directions of stent insertion (anterograde or retrograde), or drainage routes (transluminal or transpapillary) have been controversial, with varying success rates and complication rates, for EUS-BD. Although no randomized trial has directly compared the rendezvous and transluminal techniques, both techniques were equally effective and safe according to a small retrospective study, and the authors concluded that the transluminal approach is a reasonable approach secondary to rendezvous EUS-BD, because cumbersome wire manipulations are not needed. A report by a single endoscopist that included 101 patients

| Study | Stent type | No. of patients | PFC type | PFC size, mm | TSR, % | CSR, % | ADR, n (%) |
|-------|------------|----------------|----------|-------------|--------|--------|------------|
| Yamamoto et al. (2013) | Nagi | 9 | Pseudocyst/WON | 146 | 100 | 77 | Late 2 (22) |
| Chandran et al. (2015) | Nagi | 47 | Pseudocyst/WON | 100 | 98.1 | 76.6 | 10 (21)/14 (29) |
| Walter et al. (2015) | Axios | 61 | Pseudocyst/WON | 90 | 98 | 93/81 | 5 (9) |
| Siddiqui et al. (2015) | Axios | 82 | Pseudocyst/WON | 118 | 97.5 | 98.7 | 4 (28.5)/9 (13.2) |
| Shah et al. (2015) | Axios | 33 | Pseudocyst/WON | 90 | 91 | 93 | 5 (15) |
| Bapaye et al. (2015) | Nagi | 19 | Pseudocyst/WON | 107 | 100 | 100 | 2 (10.5) |
| Itoi et al. (2012) | Axios | 15 | Pseudocyst | 98 | 100 | 100 | 1 (6.6) |

PFC, pancreatic fluid collection; TSR, technical success rate; CSR, clinical success rate; ADR, adverse reaction rate; WON, walled-off necrosis. 

*Mean; Median; Early (<24 hours)/delayed (>24 hours) adverse events; Pancreatic pseudocyst/wall-of necrosis.
showed that the risk of procedure-related death decreases with the learning curve, even if EUS-BD is an efficient technique. In connection with this, a newly designed stent introducer having a fine gauge metal tip and a 7 F shaft diameter has been evaluated to enable one-step stent placement without a further fistula dilation step, potentially decreasing the risk of adverse events by immediately sealing the transmural fistula.

There are two main approach routes in EUS-BD in terms of the organ on which a non-anatomic fistula is connected to the biliary tree: EUS-CDS and EUS-HGS. The EUS-HGS and EUS-CDS techniques exhibited similar efficacy and safety in a single-center randomized trial. EUS-CDS has several potential advantages compared with endoscopic transpapillary stenting (ETS), including a lower risk of post-procedural pancreatitis, lower risk of tumor ingrowth and overgrowth, and higher technical success rate. A comparative cohort study that evaluated the clinical efficacy and safety of EUS-CDS and ETS as first-line treatments for malignant distal biliary obstruction showed that EUS-CDS was associated with short procedure times and no risk of pancreatitis.

PTBD is the most commonly used alternative drainage method for intrahepatic ducts but has a relatively high rate of complications and is frequently associated with patient discomfort related to the external drainage. The advantage of EUS-HGS compared with PTBD is the lower risk of bleeding, through the use of color Doppler, which can prevent puncturing of intervening vessels. However, bile leakage is a potential significant adverse event. In a multicenter retrospective analysis, EUS-HGS was related to complications including cholangitis, perforation, bile leakage, and bleeding (p=0.031). The left hepatic ducts are easily visualized by EUS; thus, a transgastric approach to the left biliary system was initially introduced, and hepatic hilar obstruction and isolated right intrahepatic duct obstruction are not normal indications for EUS-HGS. However, recently, sequential deployment of two stacked stents was used in isolated right intrahepatic duct obstruction to prevent bile leakage from the fistula and bile duct branch occlusion using FCSEMs. This method is known as the locking-stent method and is performed using an uncovered stent initially deployed from the upper common bile duct to B, and then a bare-ended, fully covered stent is inserted into the first stent from B3 to the stomach. For standardization of EUS-HGS in cases of failed ERCP, the development of a standard protocol for endoscopic procedures and a more specific and dedicated device for effective and safe deployment of metal stents without complications is required.

As FCSEMs offer prolonged stent patency (compared with plastic stents) and easy stent revision without increasing procedural complications such as bile leakage (compared with plastic stents or SEMSs), EUS-BD using FCSEMs was suggested as the ideal option for failed ERCP cases. In addition, EUS-BD using the FCSEMs procedure provides a biliary transmural drainage route away from a duodenal SEMS and thus may be expected to prolong the time to dysfunction of a biliary stent compared with transpapillary drainage in cases with an indwelling duodenal SEMS. FCSEMs appear to be a better option for EUS-BD because with full expansion, it effectively seals the puncture tract; thus, preventing leakage, and the larger diameter provides better long-term patency. Furthermore, in cases of stent occlusion, revision was more manageable compared with plastic stents, as a new stent can be placed into the occluded metal stent.

GALLBLADDER DRAINAGE

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is the standard approach used for patients with acute cholecystitis. However, some patients are improper for cholecystectomy because of advanced age, underlying comorbidities, or malignancies. In these cases, percutaneous transhepatic gallbladder drainage (PTGBD) is the treatment of choice, and shows clinical success rates of 56% to 100%. Nevertheless, the percutaneous approach has many weak points, including bleeding, pneumoperitoneum, bile leakage, and catheter dislodgement; additionally, long-term percutaneous drainage leads to discomfort in patients. Furthermore, high recurrence rates of cholecystitis of up to 41% have been reported after removal of the drainage catheter.

Endoscopic methods for gallbladder drainage (GBD) include the transpapillary approach or EUS-guided transmural GBD. Jang et al. showed that EUS-GBD is comparable with PTGBD in terms of technical feasibility and clinical efficacy for the treatment of acute cholecystitis in high-risk surgical patients. However, to date, there are a few data on the safety and feasibility of EUS-guided transmural GBD, because previous tubular-shaped stents have risks, such as bile leakage or migration. Furthermore, the slow flow of bile and the small caliber of plastic stents can result in early malfunction and clogging. Thus, a modified FCSEMs, with enlarged flares (22 mm external diameter) and stents angulated to 90° to prevent migration after placement, was suggested to create a safe fistula tract connecting the bowel and gallbladder without intraperitoneal bile leakage. Recently, specifically designed LAMSs have been developed for transenteric drainage and successfully tested in animal models. In a small case series, EUS-guided cholecystoenterostomy using a LAMS was found to facilitate internal GBD in non-surgical candidates who have a percutaneous cholecystostomy catheter. However, reports on the use of a LAMS for GBD are limited to small case se-
ries without long-term follow-up. Recently, in a multicenter prospective study, EUS-GBD using a newly developed LAMS device showed promising results (technical success rate, 90%; clinical success rate, 96%; stent- or procedure-related mortality rate, 7%) in high-risk surgical patients with acute cholecystitis.69

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR GASTROENTEROSTOMY

Surgical gastroenterostomy has been the standard palliative therapy for malignant GOO due to stomach, duodenum, or pancreatic cancer. Endoscopic placement of an enteric SEMS across the malignant stricture is an alternative treatment option. This procedure leads to recovery of oral intake in ~90% of patients; however, it may be complicated by recurrent obstruction caused by either stent migration or tumor infiltration.50 An alternative approach is the creation of EUS-guided endoscopic gastroenterostomy using metal stents. Endoscopic gastrojejunostomy (GJS) appears to be ideal for malignant GOO because of the short length of anastomosis in surgical GJS and the less invasive nature of endoscopic metal stent placement. Endoscopic GJS is divided into two approaches, GJS using flexible forward-view endoscopy and that using an echoendoscope.51

LAMSs such as the Spaxus (Taewoong Medical) or AXIOS stent have been developed, and EUS has been used to guide placement of LAMSs to create gastrogastric fistulas (Fig. 3). Itoi et al.52 showed that creation of an EUS-guided GJS using a novel enteric balloon and metal stent was promising as a minimally invasive treatment in an animal model. This technique involves utilizing a specially created double-balloon enteric tube (Tokyo Medical University type; Create Medic, Yokohama, Japan) to stabilize the small bowel adjacent to the stomach in the area of the puncture and LAMS placement. A prospective study was performed on EUS-guided double-balloon-occluded GJS bypass using LAMSs in 20 patients in 2015. The technical success rate was 90% (18/20).51,53

We hope that in the near future many patients suffering from malignant GOO can benefit from safe endoscopic gastroenterostomy using dedicated metal stents, which enable both secure anastomosis and passage of food. In addition, the prevalence of obesity and diabetes has exponentially increased globally, and conventional bariatric surgery is currently regarded as the only treatment that typically results in large, sustained weight losses and diabetes control for patients intractable to medical treatments. However, bariatric surgery also carries perioperative risks. Therefore there is a great need for minimally invasive weight-loss procedures in treatment sequence. In this context, we believe that the endoscopic bypass procedure using a simple anastomosis method with a LAMS has the potential to be a minimal invasive treatment strategy for metabolic diseases, including obesity and type 2 diabetes.54

CONCLUSIONS

Although no established data support EUS-guided transmural drainage of PFC using metal stents over plastic stents, metal stents could be considered at the discretion of the physician, based on operator preference and experience. LAMSs should be considered for walled-off necrosis of the pancreas, because necrosectomy is possible without laborious complicated procedures and thus reduces the risk of morbidities. The development of new stents for various procedures has expanded our ability to effectively drain fluids from the pancreas and gallbladder, approach the bile duct, and perform GJS. Future studies should delineate more clearly which type

Fig. 3. Lumen-apposing metal stent. Spaxus stent (Taewoong Medical Co. Ltd.). Adapted from Taewoong Medical Co. Ltd.
of therapeutic procedure using metal stents is best suited to a specific disease entity.

Conflicts of Interest
The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Wallace MJ, Charnsangavej C, Ogawa K, et al. Tracheobronchial tree: expandable metallic stents used in experimental and clinical applications. Work in progress. Radiology 1986;158:309-312.

2. Pispok A, Lomoschitz E, Dejaco C, Hejna M, Sautner T, Gangl A. Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided therapy of benign and malignant biliary obstruction: a case series. Am J Gastroenterol 2005;100:1743-1747.

3. Perez-Miranda M, de la Serna C, Diez-Redondo P, Vila J. Endosonography-guided cholangiopancreatography as a salvage drainage procedure for obstructed biliary and pancreatic ducts. World J Gastrointest Endosc 2010;2:212-222.

4. Wiersma MJ, Sandakly D, Carr R, Wiersma LM, Emdel WC, Frederick PK. Endosonography-guided cholangiopancreatography: Gastrointest Endosc 1996;43(2 Pt 1):102-106.

5. Giovannini M, Dotti M, Bories E, et al. Hepaticogastrostomy by echo-endoscopy as a palliative treatment in a patient with metastatic biliary obstruction. Endoscopy 2003;35:1076-1078.

6. Giovannini M, Moutardier V, Pesenti C, Bories E, Lelong B, Delpero JR. Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided bilioduodenal anastomosis: a new technique for biliary drainage. Endoscopy 2001;33:898-900.

7. Shah RJ, Shah JN, Waxman I, et al. Safety and efficacy of endoscopic ultrasound-guided drainage of pancreatic fluid collections with lumen-apposing covered self-expanding metal stents. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2013;11:747-752.

8. Smith IB, Gutierrez JP, Ramesh J, Wilcox CM, Münkemüller KE. Endoscopic extra-cavitary drainage of pancreatic necrosis with fully covered self-expanding metal stents (iCSEMS) and staged lavage with a high-flow water jet system. Endosc Int Open 2015;3:E154-E160.

9. McVay T, Adler DG. EUS-guided drainage of pancreatic fluid collections: double pigtails, metal biliary, or dedicated transluminal stents? Endosc Ultrasound 2015;4:1-3.

10. Giovannini M, Bories E, Tellez-Avila FJ. Endoscopic ultrasound-guided biliopancreatic drainage. Endoscopy Ultrasound 2012;1:119-129.

11. Varadarajulu S, Bang JY, Sutton BS, Trevino JM, Christein JD, Wilcox CM. Equal efficacy of endoscopic and surgical cystogastrostomy for pancreatic pseudocyst drainage in a randomized trial. Gastroenterology 2013;145:583-590.

12. Seewald S, Ang TL, Teng KC, Soehrendra N. EUS-guided drainage of pancreatic pseudocysts, abscesses and infected necrosis. Dig Endosc 2009;21 Suppl 1:561-565.

13. Itoi T, Binnmüller KE, Shah J, et al. Clinical evaluation of a novel lumen-apposing metal stent for endosonography-guided pancreatic pseudocyst and gallbladder drainage (with videos). Gastrointest Endosc 2012;75:870-876.

14. Bapaye A, Itoi T, Kongkam P, Dubale N, Mukai S. New fully covered large-bore wide-flare removable metal stent for drainage of pancreatic fluid collections: results of a multicenter study. Dig Endosc 2015;27:499-504.

15. Sharaiha RZ, DeFilippis EM, Kedia P, et al. Metal versus plastic for pancreatic pseudocyst drainage: clinical outcomes and success. Gastrointest Endosc 2015;82:822-827.

16. Lee BU, Song TJ, Lee SS, et al. Newly designed, fully covered metal stents for endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided transmural drainage of peripancreatic fluid collections: a prospective randomized study. Endoscopy 2014;46:1078-1084.

17. Walter D, Will U, Sanchez-Yague A, et al. A novel lumen-apposing metal stent for endoscopic ultrasound-guided drainage of pancreatic fluid collections: a prospective cohort study. Endoscopy 2015;47:65-67.

18. Siddiqui AA, Adler DG, Nieto J, et al. EUS-guided drainage of peripancreatic fluid collections and necrosis by using a novel lumen-apposing stent: a large retrospective, multicenter U.S. experience (with videos). Gastrointest Endosc 2015 Oct 26 [Epub]. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gie.2015.10.020.

19. Dhir V, Teoh AV, Bapat M, Bhandari S, Joshi N, Maydeo A. EUS-guided pseudocyst drainage: prospective evaluation of early removal of fully covered self-expandable metal stents with pancreatic ductal stenting in selected patients. Gastrointest Endosc 2015;82:650-657.

20. Chandran S, Efthymiou M, Kaffes A, et al. Management of pancreatic collections with a novel endoscopically placed fully covered self-expandable metal stent: a national experience (with videos). Gastrointest Endosc 2015;81:127-135.

21. Bang JY, Hawes R, Bartolucci A, Varadarajulu S. Efficacy of metal and plastic stents for transmural drainage of pancreatic fluid collections: a systematic review. Dig Endosc 2015;27:486-498.

22. Raijman I, Tarnasky PR, Patel S, et al. Endoscopic drainage of pancreatic fluid collections using a fully covered expandable metal stent with antimigratory fins. Endosc Ultrasound 2015;4:213-218.

23. Song TJ, Lee SS, Park do H, Seo DW, Lee SK, Kim MH. Preliminary report on a new hybrid metal stent for EUS-guided biliary drainage (with videos). Gastrointest Endosc 2014;80:707-711.

24. Yamamoto N, Isayama H, Kawakami H, et al. Preliminary report on a new, fully covered, metal stent designed for the treatment of pancreatic fluid collections. Gastrointest Endosc 2013;77:809-814.

25. Park do H, Lee TH, Paik WH, et al. Feasibility and safety of a novel dedicated device for one-step EUS-guided biliary drainage: a randomized trial. J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2015;30:1461-1466.

26. Khashab MA, Kumbhari V, Grimm IS, et al. EUS-guided gastroenterostomy: the first U.S. clinical experience (with video). Gastrointest Endosc 2015;82:932-938.

27. Oh D, Park do H, Cho MK, et al. Feasibility and safety of a fully covered self-expandable metal stent with anti-migration properties for EUS-guided pancreatic duct drainage: early and midterm outcomes (with video). Gastrointest Endosc 2016;83:366-373.

28. Pispok A, Lomoschitz E, Dejaco C, Hejna M, Sautner T, Gangl A. Endoscopic ultrasound-guided therapy of benign and malignant biliary obstruction: a case series. Am J Gastroenterol 2005;100:1743-1747.

29. Will U, Thieme A, Fueldner F, Gerlach R, Wanzar I, Meyer F. Treatment of biliary obstruction in selected patients by endoscopic ultrasound-guided (EUS)-guided transmural biliary drainage. Endoscopy 2007;39:292-295.

30. Dhir V, Itoi T, Khashab MA, et al. Multicenter comparative evaluation of endoscopic placement of expandable metal stents for malignant distal common bile duct obstruction by ERCP or EUS-guided approach. Gastrointest Endosc 2015;81:913-923.

31. Burmester E, Niehaus J, Leineweber T, Huettner T. EUS-choledochoduodenostomy drainage of the bile duct: report of 4 cases. Gastrointest Endosc 2003;57:246-251.

32. Dhir V, Artifon EL, Gupta K, et al. Multicenter study on endoscopic ultrasound-guided expandable biliary metal stent placement: choice of access route, direction of stent insertion, and drainage route. Dig Endosc 2014;26:430-435.

33. Khashab MA, Valeshbabad AK, Moodyl R, et al. EUS-guided biliary drainage by using a standardized approach for malignant biliary obstruction: rendezvous versus direct transmural techniques (with videos). Gastrointest Endosc 2013;78:734-741.

34. Poincloux L, Rosenoue O, Buc E, et al. Endoscopic ultrasound-guided biliary drainage after failed ERCP: cumulative experience of 101 procedures at a single center. Endoscopy 2015;47:794-801.

35. Kawakubo K, Kawakami H, Kuwatan M, et al. Endoscopic ultrasound-guided choledochoduodenostomy vs. transpapillary stenting for
distal biliary obstruction. Endoscopy 2016;48:164-169.
36. Borries E, Pesenti C, Caillol F, Lopes C, Giovannini M. Transgastric endoscopic ultrasonography-guided biliary drainage: results of a pilot study. Endoscopy 2007;39:287-291.
37. Jang JW, Lee SS, Park do H, Seo DW, Lee SK, Kim MH. Feasibility and safety of EUS-guided transgastric/transduodenal gallbladder drainage with single-step placement of a modified covered self-expandable metal stent in patients unsuitable for cholecystectomy. Gastrointest Endosc 2011;74:176-181.
38. Irani S, Baron TH, Grimm IS, Khashab MA. EUS-guided gallbladder drainage with a lumen-apposing metal stent (with video). Gastrointest Endosc 2013;82:1110-1115.
39. Moon JH, Chou HI, Kim DC, et al. A newly designed fully covered metal stent for lumen apposition in EUS-guided drainage and access: a feasibility study (with videos). Gastrointest Endosc 2014;79:990-995.
40. Park do H, Koo JE, Oh J, et al. EUS-guided biliary drainage with one-step placement of a fully covered metal stent for malignant biliary obstruction: a prospective feasibility study. Am J Gastroenterol 2009;104:2168-2174.
41. Kawakubo K, Iyama H, Kato H, et al. Multicenter retrospective study of endoscopic ultrasonography-guided biliary drainage for malignant biliary obstruction in Japan. J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci 2014;21:328-334.
42. Hamada T, Iyama H, Nakai Y, et al. Transmural biliary drainage can be an alternative to transpapillary drainage in patients with an indwelling duodenal stent. Dig Dis Sci 2014;59:1931-1938.
43. Kiviluoto T, Siren J, Luukkonen P, Kivlaasko E. Randomised trial of laparoscopic versus open cholecystectomy for acute and gangrenous cholecystitis. Lancet 1998;351:321-325.
44. Glenn F. Cholecystostomy in the high risk patient with biliary tract disease. Ann Surg 1977;185:185-191.
45. Chang J, Moonka R, Stelzner M. Percutaneous cholecystostomy for acute cholecystitis in veteran patients. Am J Surg 2000;180:198-202.
46. McKay A, Abulfaraj M, Lipschitz J. Short- and long-term outcomes following percutaneous cholecystostomy for acute cholecystitis in high-risk patients. Surg Endosc 2012;26:1343-1351.
47. Jang JW, Lee SS, Song TJ, et al. Endoscopic ultrasound-guided transmural and percutaneous transhepatic gallbladder drainage are comparable for acute cholecystitis. Gastroenterology 2012;142:805-811.
48. Law R, Grimm IS, Stavas JM, Baron TH. Conversion of percutaneous cholecystostomy to internal transmural gallbladder drainage using an endoscopic ultrasound-guided, lumen-apposing metal stent. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2016;14:476-480.
49. Walter D, Teoh AY, Itoh T, et al. EUS-guided gall bladder drainage with a lumen-apposing metal stent: a prospective long-term evaluation. Gut 2016;65:6-8.
50. Bimmoeller KF, Shah JN. Endoscopic ultrasound-guided gastroenterostomy using novel tools designed for transluminal therapy: a porcine study. Endoscopy 2012;44:499-503.
51. Itoh T, Ishii K, Tanaka R, Umeda J, Tonozuka R. Current status and perspective of endoscopic ultrasonography-guided gastrojejunostomy: endoscopic ultrasonography-guided double-balloon-occluded gastrojejunostomy (with videos). J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci 2015;22:3-11.
52. Itoh T, Itoh F, Uraoka T, et al. Novel EUS-guided gastrojejunostomy technique using a new double-balloon enteric tube and lumen-apposing metal stent (with videos). Gastrointest Endosc 2013;78:934-939.
53. Itoh T, Ishii K, Ikeuchi N, et al. Prospective evaluation of endoscopic ultrasonography-guided double-balloon-occluded gastrojejunostomy bypass (EPASS) for malignant gastric outlet obstruction. Gut 2016;65:193-195.
54. Yi SW, Chung MJ, Jo JH, et al. Gastrojejunostomy by pure natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery using a newly designed anastomosing metal stent in a porcine model. Surg Endosc 2014;28:1439-1446.