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SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

Circular stapling for Roux-en-Y esophagojejunal anastomosis using a transorally-inserted anvil



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Introduction

After total gastrectomy, Roux-en-Y reconstruction is the most widely used technique to restore tract integrity [1]. The anastomosis can be fashioned mechanically or manually, using an open or laparoscopic procedure.

The anastomosis procedure can be technically demanding because of the difficult exposure, especially in case of obesity or a proximal tumor requiring high section of the esophagus.

A new circular stapling system using a transorally-inserted anvil provides an easy and safe method for mechanical esophagojejunal anastomosis in a limited working area [2]. Complete suture of the entire mucosal circumference, the sturdiest layer of the esophageal wall, is guaranteed by transection stapling of the esophagus before transoral insertion of the anvil.

This system can be used for laparoscopic or laparotomic procedures.

We describe the technique for mechanical circular esophagojejunal anastomosis using a transorally-inserted anvil after laparoscopic total gastrectomy.

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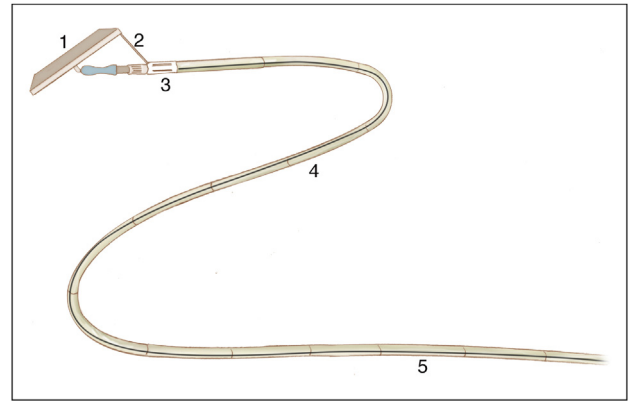
1 The anvil of the circular stapler

The anvil is attached to a 95-mm polyvinyl chloride (PVC®) orogastric tube via a white plastic connector. The head of the anvil is held at 170° by a polyester thread. Two anvil diameters are available: 21 and 25 cm.

The orogastric tube has a black line drawn longitudinally to facilitate its orientation during insertion and to optimally position the anvil in the esophagus. The insertion length is calibrated at the mouth level.

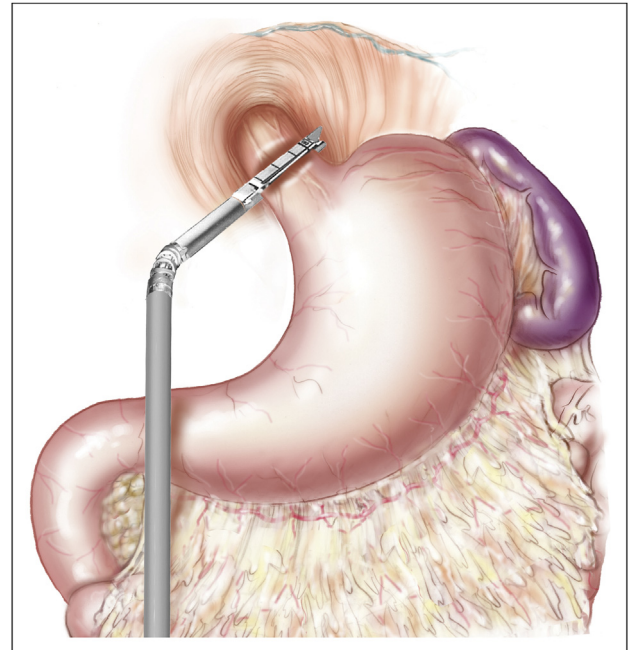
Legends:

- 1 anvil
- 2 thread
- 3 white connector
- 4 orogastric tube
- 5 longitudinal black line



2 Situation before anastomosis

The abdominal esophagus is released at least 1 cm above the section level then transected using an automatic linear stapler. There is no need to fashion a pouch manually, simplifying the preparation for the anastomosis. This also guarantees that a complete mucosal-sub-mucosal cylinder is stapled.



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