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Method for forming access route to bile duct

Abstract

A method of forming an access route to the bile duct includes: forming a tunnel extending from an oral ridge of a duodenal papilla, which is located on an oral side of a natural opening of a duodenal papilla, to the bile duct; and dilating a lumen of the tunnel more than when it was formed.

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Background/Summary

BACKGROUND

Technical Field

(1) The present invention relates to a method for forming an access route to the bile duct, and more specifically, a method for forming the access route to the bile duct from within the duodenum without touching an opening of the duodenal papilla. A treatment method using the method for forming the access route is also provided.

Background Art

(2) Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) remains a challenging procedure. Post-ERCP pancreatitis is a frequent complication and can be severe or fatal.

(3) It is thought that post-ERCP pancreatitis is developed as a result of impaired outflow of pancreatic fluid (obstruction of pancreatic duct opening) by papilledema and papilledema sphincter spasm, which is caused when a natural opening of a duodenal papilla, a common duct after a bile duct and a pancreatic duct merge, and an ostium of the pancreatic duct, which is a confluence of the pancreatic duct and the bile duct, or the like is stimulated when accessing the bile duct. Therefore, access to the bile duct without touching the ostium of the pancreatic duct, the opening of the

duodenal papilla, and the common duct may suppress post-ERCP pancreatitis.

(4) Published Japanese Translation No. 2013-507185 of the PCT International Publication discloses a technique in which a needle is inserted into the duodenum and the common bile duct from within the duodenum, and a stent is placed in the formed tunnel. The stent is placed so that it is exposed in the abdominal cavity, and a route is formed through which bile is drained from the common bile duct without passing through the duodenal papilla.

SUMMARY

(5) A method for forming an access route to the bile duct according to an aspect of the present invention includes: forming a tunnel extending from an oral ridge of the duodenal papilla, which is located on an oral side of a natural opening of the duodenal papilla, to the bile duct; and dilating a lumen of the tunnel more than when it was formed.

(6) A method for forming an access route to a bile duct according to another aspect of the present invention includes: forming a tunnel extending from an oral ridge of a duodenal papilla, which is located on an oral side of a natural opening of a duodenal papilla, to the bile duct; and placing a stent in the tunnel.

(7) A method for forming an access route to a bile duct according to another aspect of the present invention includes: forming a tunnel extending from an oral ridge of a duodenal papilla, which is located on an oral side of a natural opening of a duodenal papilla, to the bile duct, wherein the tunnel is formed by piercing a needle, which is configured to energize a tissue, from the oral ridge toward the bile duct.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a diagram showing an example of an endoscope used in an access route-forming method of the present invention.

(2) FIG. 2 is a diagram showing another example of the endoscope.

(3) FIG. 3 is a diagram showing another example of the endoscope.

(4) FIG. 4 is a diagram showing one process of the access route-forming method according to an embodiment of the present invention.

(5) FIG. 5 is a diagram showing an example of a puncture device used in the access route-forming method of the present invention.

(6) FIG. 6 is a diagram showing one process of an access route-forming method according to an embodiment.

(7) FIG. 7 is a diagram showing an example of an ultrasound image.

(8) FIG. 8 is a diagram showing an example of an ultrasound image.

(9) FIG. 9 is a diagram showing one process of the access route-forming method according to an embodiment.

(10) FIG. 10 is a diagram showing one process of the access route-forming method according to an embodiment.

(11) FIG. 11 is a diagram showing one process of the access route-forming method according to an embodiment.

(12) FIG. 12 is a diagram showing one process of the access route-forming method according to an embodiment.

(13) FIG. 13 is a diagram showing a distal end portion of an endoscope used in a modified mode.

(14) FIG. 14 is a diagram showing one process of an access route-forming method according to the modified mode.

(15) FIG. 15 is a diagram showing another example of the puncture device.

(16) FIG. 16 is a diagram showing a distal end portion of an insertion probe according to the

modified mode.

(17) FIG. **17** is a diagram showing one process of the access route-forming method according to the modified mode.

(18) FIG. **18** is a diagram showing a state in which a guide member breaks through a stenosis.

(19) FIG. **19** is a diagram showing another example of a state in which the guide member breaks through the stenosis.

(20) FIG. **20** is a diagram showing a state in which a drainage stent is placed in the bile duct.

(21) FIG. **21** is a diagram showing one process of an access route-forming method according to a second embodiment.

(22) FIG. **22** is a diagram showing one process of the access route-forming method according to the second embodiment.

(23) FIG. **23** is a diagram showing one process of the access route-forming method according to the second embodiment.

(24) FIG. **24** is a diagram showing a state in which a stent is placed in a tunnel.

(25) FIG. **25** is a diagram showing a state in which a drainage stent is placed in the bile duct while a stent is placed in the tunnel.

(26) FIG. **26** is a diagram showing a state in which the stent is placed in a tunnel and calculus in the bile duct is removed.

(27) FIG. **27** is a schematic diagram of a puncture device provided with a needle tube having an energizing function.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

(28) An embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. **1** to **14**.

(29) First, a flexible endoscope having a flexible insertion portion is inserted into the luminal organ through the patient's mouth or nose, and the distal end portion is moved to the vicinity of the duodenal papilla.

(30) The endoscope used in the present embodiment is a duodenal endoscope that includes an optical observation part **10** and an ultrasound vibrator **13** and is capable of optical observation and ultrasound observation. There are two types of such endoscope. FIG. **1** shows a first type, in which the ultrasound vibrator **13** is located forward of an outlet **11** of the treatment device channel. FIG. **2** shows a second type, in which the ultrasound vibrator **13** is located more proximally than the outlet **11** of the treatment device channel. Both the first type and the second type can be used for the method for forming an access route to the bile duct according to the present embodiment (hereinafter, simply referred to as "route-forming method").

(31) In an endoscope, it is desirable that the visual field direction of the optical observation part **10** be 90° or more in the distal end direction relative to the endoscope axis (longitudinal axis of the elongated insertion portion)(the visual field direction of the optical observation part **10** is directed proximally in the endoscope axis). In addition, it is desirable to have a forceps-raising base that directs the treatment device 90° or more in the distal end direction relative to the endoscope axis (directs the treatment device proximally in the endoscope axis). In the endoscope shown in FIG. **2**, the visual field direction of the optical observation part **10** is 90° or more in the distal end direction relative to the endoscope axis (the visual field direction of the optical observation part **10** is directed proximally in the endoscope axis), and a raising base **12** allows the treatment device coming out of the outlet **11** to be directed 90° or more in the distal end direction relative to the endoscope axis (directed proximally in the endoscope axis). The endoscope shown in FIG. **3** is of the first type, but the arrangement and orientation of the optical observation part **10** are different from those of the endoscope shown in FIG. **1**, and the visual field direction of the optical observation part **10** is directed 90° or more in the distal end direction relative to the endoscope axis (directed proximally in the endoscope axis). Further, the raising base **12** can direct the treatment device coming out of the outlet **11** to 90° or more in the distal end direction relative to the endoscope axis (directed proximally in the endoscope axis).

(32) Next, the duodenal papilla is imaged in the field of view of the optical observation part **10** of the endoscope. This operation is the same as the operation in a general ERCP or the like, and is performed by appropriately combining an advance/retract operation, a bending operation, a twisting operation, and the like of the endoscope. When imaging the duodenal papilla in the field of view, it is desirable to position the duodenal papilla in front (center) of the optical image.

(33) Next, water is supplied into the duodenum, and water is stored in the duodenum where the distal end of the endoscope is located.

(34) Water can be supplied by using a water supply function of the endoscope, a syringe passed through the treatment device channel of the endoscope, or the like.

(35) As shown in FIG. 4, water is stored to such an extent that the space between the ultrasound vibrator **13** and the duodenal wall and the space between the endoscopic treatment device channel outlet and the duodenal wall are filled with water Wt. As a result, an environment is created in which the bile duct BD, the pancreatic duct PD, and the sheath and needle (described later) protruding from the treatment device channel can be imaged in an ultrasound endoscopic image using the ultrasound vibrator **13**.

(36) The posture of the patient when storing water in the duodenal area is preferably the prone position or the left lateral decubitus position, and may be the supine position. The prone position is a common posture in ERCP and can be easily performed.

(37) Balloons may be used to store water, if desired. It is possible to prevent water from moving to the stomach side by introducing the endoscope into the duodenum with the endoscope passed through an overtube with a balloon attached to the outer circumference and inflating the balloon in the duodenum closer to the mouth than the duodenal papilla.

(38) After storing the water, the operator operates the ultrasound vibrator **13** to acquire an ultrasound image, and confirms that the bile duct and pancreatic duct can be imaged. The water to be stored may be degassed water or may contain an electrolyte or the like such as a physiological saline solution.

(39) Once the environment for imaging the ultrasound image is ready, the operator confirms whether the bile duct/the pancreatic duct is imaged in the ultrasound image before the insertion position is aligned on the optical image.

(40) Next, the operator inserts the puncture device into the treatment device channel from the entrance of the treatment device channel provided in the operation part of the endoscope.

(41) FIG. 5 shows an example of the puncture device. A puncture device **30** shown in FIG. 5 includes an elongated sheath **31**, an operation part **32** attached to the sheath **31**, and a needle tube **33** connected to the operation part **32**. The needle tube **33** is passed through the sheath **31**, and by operating the operation part **32**, the needle tube **33** can be protruded from the sheath **31** or stored in the sheath **31**.

(42) The needle tube **33** may have one or more dimples having a recessed outer surface at the distal end. In this case, the ultrasound waves are easily reflected, and the position of the needle can be easily confirmed on the ultrasound image.

(43) When the puncture device **30** is inserted into the endoscopic channel, the operator positions the distal end of the sheath **31** near the exit of the treatment device channel. When the endoscope has the raising base, the raising base may be raised in advance and the distal end of the sheath **31** may be inserted until it reaches the raising base. When the sheath **31** reaches the vicinity of the raising base, the operation part **32** may be fixed to the entrance of the treatment device channel.

(44) The operator operates the endoscope and the puncture device to position the distal end of the sheath **31** within the field of view of the optical observation part **10**. In a case where the endoscope has the raising base, the raising base may be operated as needed. At this point, as in the example shown in FIG. 6, the distal end of the needle tube **33** introduced into the duodenum is still in the sheath **31**, and an opening Po and an oral side projection Op of the duodenal papilla and the distal end of the sheath **31** are imaged in the field of view.

(45) The operator estimates a position **P1** on the duodenal surface that coincides with the extension line of the sheath **31** while viewing the image as shown in FIG. **6** with an endoscope. That is, the position **P1** means a position where it is presumed that the distal end of the sheath **31** and the inner surface of the duodenum come into contact with each other when the sheath **31** is advanced as it is.

(46) The operator adjusts the position **P1** by operating the endoscope so that the position **P1** is within the range of the oral side projection **Op** and does not overlap with the opening **Po**. When the insertion portion of the endoscope is advanced or retracted, the insertion portion is bent in the vertical direction of the image, or the raising base is operated, the sheath **31** moves in the vertical direction in the image. When the insertion portion of the endoscope is twisted or the insertion portion is bent in the left-right direction of the image, the sheath **31** moves in the left-right direction in the image. By appropriately combining these operations, the position of the sheath **31** in the image can be changed and the position **P1** can be adjusted.

(47) After adjusting the position **P1**, the distal end of the sheath **31** may be brought into contact with the position **P1**. If the sheath **31** is brought into contact with the oral side projection on the oral side at this timing, there is an advantage in that the sheath position is less likely to shift when the sheath is aligned in the ultrasound image described later.

(48) Since the opening **Po** is closed most of the time, it cannot be imaged by an ultrasound image. In addition, the resolution of the current ultrasound image is not sufficient enough for the oral side projection to be accurately imaged. Therefore, the above-mentioned aligning step in the optical image is required.

(49) In FIG. **6**, a preferable range of the position **P1** is shown as an area **A1**. The area **A1** is within the range of the oral side projection **Op**, which is a portion of the duodenal papilla raised from the inner wall of the duodenum on the oral side of the opening **Po**. The opening **Po** is not included in the oral side projection **Op**. If the position where the puncture device is punctured shifts to the left, right, up or down with respect to the area **A1**, the possibility of penetrating the duodenum and protruding into the abdominal cavity or stimulating the opening increases. By adjusting the position **P1** within the area **A1**, the puncture device can be reliably punctured into the oral side projection and the risk described above can be reduced.

(50) On the right side of FIG. **6**, the cross-sectional shape of the oral side projection **Op** and its surroundings is schematically shown. In a case where the optical image has an assist function for displaying the protruding direction of the needle in the optical image, the position **P1** can be adjusted in the area **A1** by using this as a guide. In this case, the position **P1** can be adjusted within the area **A1** without having the distal end of the puncture device **30** protrude from the exit of the treatment device channel.

(51) Next, while observing the ultrasound image by the ultrasound vibrator **13**, moving the ultrasound vibrator **13**, and changing the scanning surface from which the image is acquired, the operator selects the scanning surface in which the bile duct is imaged at the position closest to the duodenal papilla and holds the ultrasound vibrator **13**.

(52) During the procedure, both the optical image and the ultrasound image may be displayed at all times, or only one may be displayed while switching appropriately.

(53) For example, in the ultrasound image shown in FIG. **7** and the ultrasound image shown in FIG. **8**, compared with the bile duct **BD** imaged in FIG. **7**, the lower bile duct **BD** closer to the duodenal papilla is imaged in FIG. **8**. In such a case, the operator selects the scanning surface corresponding to FIG. **8**.

(54) As described above, the oral side projection is usually not accurately imaged in the ultrasound image, but in the drawings of the present specification, the oral side projection is shown in order to make it easier to understand the positional relationship with the bile duct.

(55) The scanning surface is changed by operating the endoscope while taking care that the position **P1** (the distal end of the sheath when the sheath **31** is in contact with the oral side projection) does not deviate from the area **A1**, and changing the emission direction of the

ultrasound waves. Specifically, the scanning surface is adjusted by appropriately combining the advance/retract and the twist (rotation) of the endoscope, and the bending of the curved portion of the endoscope in the vertical/horizontal directions.

(56) The common duct after the bile duct and pancreatic duct merge is difficult to recognize on ultrasound images because the sphincter muscle of the duodenal papilla is narrowed or closed due to contraction most of the time. However, since the bile duct slightly above the upstream side of the confluence of the bile duct and the pancreatic duct remains open, it can be visually recognized by an ultrasound image. Although the bile duct has a complex three-dimensional shape, the lowermost part on the ultrasound image, which is the closest to the duodenal papilla, can be identified by the above steps.

(57) The operator operates the sheath **31** while observing the ultrasound image, maintaining the position of the scanning surface so that the position **P1** (the distal end of the sheath when the sheath **31** is in contact with the oral side projection) does not deviate from the area **A1** and the lowermost part of the bile duct can be imaged, and positions the lowermost part of the bile duct **BD** on the extension line of the sheath **31** as shown in FIG. **9**. Specifically, it is adjusted by appropriately combining the minute advance/retract and twist (rotation) of the endoscope, bending of the curved portion of the endoscope in the vertical and horizontal directions, and raising the raising base in a state where there is a raising base. Since water is stored in the duodenum, the sheath **31** is in a state where it can be imaged on an ultrasound image. Similarly, in a state where the ultrasound image has an assist function for displaying the needle protruding direction, the angle of the sheath with respect to the tissue may be adjusted so that the lowermost portion of the bile duct **BD** is positioned on the display of the needle protruding direction. At this time, the angle formed by the longitudinal axis of the sheath **31** and the extending direction of the bile duct **BD** on the downstream side of the bile duct is preferably as small as possible. As the angle becomes smaller, the longitudinal axis of the sheath **31** and the extending direction of the bile duct become closer to parallel.

(58) The operator confirms on the ultrasound image that there is no pancreatic duct between the distal end of the sheath and the lowermost part of the bile duct on its extension line. In addition, the operator puts the endoscope in Doppler mode and confirms on ultrasound images that there are no blood vessels between the distal end of the sheath and the lowermost part of the bile duct. In a case where there are blood vessels, a predetermined color such as red or blue indicating blood flow is displayed on the ultrasound image.

(59) In a case where there is either a pancreatic duct or a blood vessel between the distal end of the sheath and the lowermost part of the bile duct, if the needle tube is protruded as it is, there is a high possibility that the needle tube will pierce the pancreatic duct or blood vessel, so the position **P1** is changed under optical observation, and the above procedure is performed again.

(60) Either the presence or absence of the pancreatic duct or the presence or absence of the blood vessel may be confirmed first.

(61) By the above process, the piercing angle of the needle tube into the oral side projection, that is, the path for advancing the needle tube **33** within the tissue of the oral side projection is determined. The operator may advance the sheath **31** while maintaining the position and orientation of the endoscope under optical observation, bring the distal end of the sheath **31** close to the oral side projection, and lightly contact the sheath **31** as shown in FIG. **10**. By this operation, the distal end of the sheath **31** comes into contact with the oral side projection **Op** approximately at the position **P1** or in the vicinity of the position **P1**.

(62) As described above, when the distal end of the sheath **31** is brought into contact with the position **P1** before positioning in the ultrasound image, this operation is not necessary.

(63) Subsequently, the operator operates the operation part **32** of the puncture device **30** under ultrasound observation to protrude the needle tube **33** from the sheath **31**. As shown in FIG. **11**, the protruding needle tube **33** pierces the oral side projection **Op**. When the needle tube **33** is further advanced, the needle tube **33** advances in the tissue of the oral side projection **Op** toward the

upstream side of the bile duct BD, and approaches the lowermost part of the bile duct BD without exiting the abdominal cavity. When the needle tube **33** pierces the bile duct BD and the distal end of the needle tube **33** reaches the inside of the bile duct BD, the operator stops the advance of the needle tube **33** and fixes it so as not to move with respect to the sheath **31**.

(64) If necessary, it may be confirmed by a method other than the ultrasound image whether or not the distal end of the needle tube **33** is in the bile duct. In particular, an exemplary example of the method is as follows: inject a contrast medium through the needle tube **33** and perform X-ray fluoroscopy; insert a guide member (described later) into the needle tube **33** and protrude it from the needle tube **33** to check its behavior, or suction from the needle tube **33** and check if bile is suctioned.

(65) The needle tube **33** inserted into the oral side projection reaches the bile duct without exiting the abdominal cavity and without contacting any of the openings of the duodenal papilla, the pancreatic duct ostium, the common duct, the pancreatic duct, and large blood vessels. That is, the tunnel formed in the duodenum by the needle tube **33** is a tunnel that connects the inside of the duodenum and the bile duct without going out to the abdominal cavity and stimulating each of the above-mentioned sites. Since the needle tube **33** is stuck in the bile duct from the downstream side to the upstream side of the bile duct, it advances toward the upstream side when further advanced.

(66) The operator inserts a guide member (treatment device) **35** into the needle tube **33** from a proximal end of the puncture device **30**, advances the guide member **35** inside the needle tube, and protrudes the guide member **35** from the distal end of the needle tube **33**. A guide wire is typical as the guide member in the present embodiment. As shown in FIG. **12**, the guide member **35** extends in the bile duct BD from the downstream side to the upstream side. The guide member **35** may have at least a distal end that is reflected in an X-ray image or an ultrasound image.

(67) When the guide member **35** is sufficiently placed in the bile duct BD, the operator removes the puncture device **30** leaving the guide member **35**. This forms an access route from the duodenum to the bile duct. This access route does not irritate these sites because it does not touch the opening of the duodenal papilla, the pancreatic duct ostium, or the common duct.

(68) If the stenosis of the bile duct is located near the oral ridge, it may be difficult to break through the stenosis even if only the guide member is advanced. In such a case, as shown in FIG. **18**, by protruding the distal end of the needle tube **33** into the bile duct BD and then bringing the distal end of the needle tube **33** close to the stenosis St, it becomes easier to make the guide member **35** break through the stenosis.

(69) Alternatively, after removing the puncture device **30**, a resin catheter may be inserted into the bile duct along the guide member **35**, and as shown in FIG. **19**, after the distal end of the catheter **40** is brought close to the stenosis St, the guide member **35** may be advanced. Since the catheter **40** is more flexible than the needle tube **33**, it can be easily moved closer to the stenosis St than the needle tube **33**, and the bile duct is less likely to be damaged even if it comes into contact with the bile duct wall. Further, since the resistance when advancing and retracting the guide member **35** in the catheter **40** is smaller than the resistance when advancing and retracting the guide member **35** in the needle tube **33**, it is easy to transmit the force to the guide member **35** and it is easy to break through the stenosis St.

(70) When using the catheter **40**, it is necessary to be aware that the guide member may come off the bile duct when the puncture device **30** is replaced with the catheter **40**.

(71) After forming the access route, various treatments can be performed by introducing the distal ends of various treatment devices into the bile duct via the access route along the guide member **35**. Some of them are shown below. A contrast catheter is inserted into the bile duct along the guide member **35**, and ERCP is performed. A basket-type treatment device is inserted into the bile duct along the guide member **35** to treat intrabile duct calculus. A treatment device having a balloon is inserted into the bile duct along the guide member **35** to treat intrabile duct calculus and dilate a stenosis of the bile duct. A biopsy forceps is inserted into the bile duct along the guide member **35**,

and tissues such as the bile duct used for definitive diagnosis of malignant tumors and the like are collected. A stent delivery system is inserted into the bile duct along the guide member **35**, and the stent (drainage stent) is placed in the bile duct. An example of placing the drainage stent is shown in FIG. **20**. Normally, a first end portion **60a** of a placed drainage stent **60** is located upstream of the stenosis **St**, and a second end portion **60b** exits the tunnel and is located in the duodenum. That is, the stenosis **St** is located between the first end portion **60a** and the second end portion **60b**.

(72) If there are a plurality of stenoses, a plurality of drainage stents can be placed. In addition to improving the flow of bile in the stenosis described above, the drainage stent can be placed for various purposes such as temporary biliary decompression before calculus removal, prevention of jaundice after calculus removal, and decompression in the bile duct during bile duct perforation. The drainage stent may be a tube stent or a metallic stent, and in the case of a metallic stent, it may be a covered metallic stent.

(73) When performing the procedure, the access route may be dilated by performing endoscopic sphincterotomy (EST) or endoscopic papillary balloon dilatation (EPBD) as needed. Further, the access route may be extended by combining EST and EPBD.

(74) As described above, according to the present embodiment, the route from within the duodenum to access the bile duct without touching the opening of the papilla of the duodenal papilla, the pancreatic duct ostium, and the common duct can be formed with significantly reduced risk of intestinal perforation and major bleeding. As a result, various treatments for the bile duct can be performed without stimulating the opening, the pancreatic duct ostium, and the common duct, and the occurrence of complications due to these stimuli can be significantly reduced. These advantages cannot be realized by the technique described in Published Japanese Translation No. 2013-507185 of the PCT International Publication, in which it is assumed that a stent is placed, the needle penetrates the duodenum and enters the abdominal cavity.

(75) In addition, by combining optical observation with an endoscope and ultrasound observation, the path of the needle from the oral side projection to the bile duct can be easily identified without passing through a large blood vessel or pancreatic duct. Therefore, compared to the conventional ERCP, it does not require advanced skills and can be easily performed by many operators.

(76) As another method for forming an access route from the oral side projection to the bile duct, a method of incising the oral side projection under optical observation is known. This method does not provide any information about the presence or absence of the abdominal cavity or the presence or absence of blood vessels or pancreatic ducts in the incised tissue. Therefore, the possibility of unintended perforation or bleeding cannot be reduced. A low-risk route from the oral side projection to the bile duct can be realized only by combining the determination of the insertion position under optical observation and the determination of the piercing angle under ultrasound observation as in the present embodiment.

(77) In the access route-forming method of the present embodiment, the details of each process and the device used can be changed in various ways. Some of them will be described below.

(78) (Curved Mode of the Endoscope Insertion Part)

(79) In the above description, as shown in FIG. **4** and the like, the side-view type endoscope is curved so that the side where the optical observation part **10** is located is inside the curve. This embodiment has an advantage in that the orientation of the endoscope can be easily stabilized in the duodenum and optical observation as shown in FIG. **6** can be easily performed. As another embodiment, when a direct-view type endoscope in which the optical observation part **10** is provided at the distal end portion is used as shown in FIG. **13**, the endoscope may be curved in one direction by about 180° and inverted as shown in FIG. **14**. At this time, the endoscope may be curved so that the side with the optical observation part **10** is on the outside of the curve, or the side with the optical observation part **10** may be curved on the inside of the curve. In this case, the sheath **31** of the puncture device protruding from the outlet **11** can be inserted into the oral side projection without being strongly bent by a raising base or the like. As a result, the resistance when

moving the sheath or needle tube of the puncture device back and forth is reduced, and the operation of the puncture device becomes smooth.

(80) (Sheath Approach to the Oral Side Projection)

(81) When the distal end of the sheath brought close to the oral side projection is brought into contact with the oral side projection, the sheath in contact with the oral side projection may be further pushed in, and the distal end of the sheath may be sunk into the oral side projection. In this case, since there is a tissue of the oral side projection around the distal end of the sheath, by bringing the ultrasound vibrator into contact with the duodenum wall, the distal end of the sheath can be imaged in an ultrasound image without storing water in the duodenum. As a result, it becomes possible to execute the access route-forming method by omitting the step of storing water.

(82) (Device Configuration)

(83) In the above description, a hollow needle tube was used as the needle to pierce the oral side projection.

(84) As another embodiment, a non-tubular solid needle **43** as shown in FIG. **15** may be used. In this case, as the guide member, a guide tube **45** having an inner diameter larger than the outer diameter of the needle **43** and an outer diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the sheath **31** can be used. The outer diameter of the guide tube **45** is small enough to pass through the guide wire lumen of the treatment device to be introduced later.

(85) In the above description, an endoscope in which an ultrasound vibrator is attached to the insertion portion is used. As another embodiment, an ultrasound probe (hereinafter referred to as "insertion probe") equipped with an ultrasound vibrator having a size that can be passed through the treatment device channel of the endoscope may be combined with an endoscope capable of only optical observation, to execute the access route formation method.

(86) In this case, a duodenal endoscope is inserted into the luminal organ through the patient's mouth or nose, and the distal end is moved to the vicinity of the duodenal papilla. Next, the duodenal papilla is imaged in the field of view of the optical observation part of the duodenal endoscope. When imaging the duodenal papilla in the field of view, it is desirable to position the duodenal papilla in front (center) of the optical image.

(87) Next, the operator inserts the insertion probe into the treatment device channel from the entrance of the treatment device channel provided in the operation part of the endoscope.

(88) When inserting the insertion probe into the endoscopic channel, the operator positions the distal end of the insertion probe near the exit of the treatment instrument channel. When the endoscope has the raising base, the raising base may be kept upright when the insertion probe is inserted, and the insertion probe may be inserted until the distal end of the insertion probe reaches the raising base. Further, when the distal end of the insertion probe reaches the vicinity of the raising base, the operation portion of the insertion probe may be attached to the entrance of the treatment device channel and fixed.

(89) The operator then operates the endoscope and the insertion probe to position the distal end of the insertion probe within the field of view of the optical observation part.

(90) FIG. **16** shows the distal end of an insertion probe **50**. The insertion probe **50** has a structure in which an ultrasound vibrator **53** is attached to the distal end of an elongated insertion portion. A channel extends in the longitudinal direction at the insertion portion, and an outlet **52** opens at the distal end.

(91) The operator adjusts the position **P1** by operating the endoscope so that the position **P1** is within the range of the oral side projection **Op** and does not overlap with the opening **Po**. The position **P1** at this time is a position on the surface of the duodenum that coincides with the extension line of the longitudinal axis of the insertion probe **50**. When the insertion portion of the endoscope is advanced or retracted, the insertion portion is curved in the vertical direction of the image, or the raising base is operated, and the distal end of the insertion probe **50** moves in the vertical direction in the image. When the insertion portion of the endoscope is twisted or the

insertion portion is curved in the left-right direction of the image, the distal end of the insertion probe **50** moves in the left-right direction in the image. By appropriately combining these operations, the position of the distal end of the insertion probe in the image can be changed and the position **P1** can be adjusted.

(92) After adjusting the position **P1**, the ultrasound vibrator **53** at the distal end of the insertion probe **50** is lightly brought into contact with the oral side projection **Op**.

(93) The insertion probe **50** has an assist function of displaying the protruding direction of the needle on the ultrasound image. The operator confirms the bile duct and the pancreatic duct with the ultrasound image acquired by the insertion probe **50**, and identifies the bile duct from the difference in direction (running).

(94) Next, the operator moves the ultrasound vibrator **53** while viewing the ultrasound image by the ultrasound vibrator **53** to change the scanning surface from which the image is acquired in various ways, and selects the scanning surface in which the bile duct is imaged closest to the duodenal papilla and holds the ultrasound vibrator **53**. Specifically, the scanning surface is adjusted by appropriately combining the advance/retract or the twist (rotation) of the endoscope, the bending of the curved portion of the endoscope in the vertical/horizontal directions, and the operation of the raising base.

(95) In addition, the display of the assist function is adjusted to pass through the lowermost part of the bile duct. The specific operation is almost the same as the adjustment of the scanning surface described above.

(96) Further, as in the above-described embodiment, the following is performed. Check that there are no blood vessels on the assist display in Doppler mode for ultrasound observation. (This step can be omitted.) Check that there is no pancreatic duct on the assist display on the ultrasound image. Either the confirmation that there is no blood vessel or the confirmation that there is no pancreatic duct may be performed first.

(97) Up to this point, the insertion route of the needle tube **33** is determined. After determining the insertion route, the needle tube **33** is inserted into the oral side projection **Op** from the insertion probe **50** as shown in FIG. **17**. Check the distal end of the needle on the ultrasound image, and stop the needle when the distal end of the needle reaches the inside of the bile duct **BD**.

(98) The insertion portion of the insertion probe **50** may be provided with a mechanism capable of bending in advance or actively bending. In this way, as shown in FIG. **17**, the insertion probe **50** protruding from the endoscope can be easily directed to retract towards the proximal end of the endoscope. if necessary, confirm whether the distal end of the needle has reached the inside of the bile duct by means other than the ultrasound waves described above. (This step can be omitted.) Insert the guide member deep into the bile duct while checking it with an X-ray image or an ultrasound image. (At least the distal end of which is reflected in the X-ray image or ultrasound image is used as the guide member) Remove the insertion probe **50** from the bile duct and scope, leaving the guide member. Use the guide member as a guide to perform ERCP or the related procedure described above.

(99) In this embodiment using the insertion probe **50**, the ultrasound vibrator **53** is brought into contact with the oral side projection **Op**, and the above-mentioned assist function can be used, so that the step of storing water in the duodenum can be omitted. As a result, the procedure becomes simpler.

(100) In this embodiment, the needle tube **33** may be attached to and integrated with the insertion probe **50**.

(101) The second embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. **21** to **26**. In the following description, duplicate description may be omitted for the contents already described.

(102) In the present embodiment, the tunnel formed by piercing the ridge on the oral side with a needle is dilated larger than at the time of formation, making it easier to perform various

subsequent procedures.

(103) There are three main means of dilation: energizing dilator, catheter, and knife.

(104) When using an energizing dilator, the lumen of a tunnel Tn can be dilated by inserting the dilator along the guide member **35** while energizing the tunnel Tn.

(105) When a catheter is used, the lumen of the tunnel Tn can be dilated by inserting the catheter into the tunnel Tn along the guide member **35** and positioning a catheter **80** in the tunnel Tn for a certain period of time as shown in FIG. **22**.

(106) As the catheter to be used, those in which the diameter of the distal end portion is gradually reduced as it approaches the distal end, those in which the values of the inner diameter and outer diameter of the distal end are close to the values of the outer diameter of the guide member (for example, the difference between the outer diameter of the guide member and the outer diameter of the distal end of the catheter is about 0.8 mm), and those with moderate hardness and excellent pushability are preferable.

(107) Some catheters include an X-ray opaque marker, and some catheters include a contrast medium that is kneaded. When such a catheter is used, the position of the catheter can be easily confirmed by an X-ray image or the like, and the catheter can be reliably arranged in the entire tunnel Tn. In addition, it is possible to determine that the catheter is pushed into the bile duct, and it is possible to determine that the entire tunnel Tn is reliably dilated.

(108) Since the tunnel Tn formed by the needle is thin, it may be difficult for the catheter **80** to enter. In this case, the following operations are effective. Two or more of these operations may be combined. Making the exit of the treatment tool channel approach the oral ridge by bending the bending mechanism of the endoscope. Adding a push by the raising base **12** by lowering the raising base **12** once and then raising the raising base **12** in accordance with the operation of pushing the catheter **80**. Pushing the catheter **80** while rotating it.

(109) If it is difficult to enter the tunnel Tn due to insufficient pushability of the catheter, a catheter equipped with an energizing tip at the distal end may be used. Since this catheter (energizing dilator) can cauterize and incise the tissue by bringing the energizing tip into contact with the tissue, the opening of the tunnel Tn can be widened for easy insertion. By advancing while energizing in the tunnel Tn, in addition to the dilation by the catheter, the dilation by incising the inner wall of the tunnel Tn can also be performed.

(110) When using a knife, the knife is inserted into the tunnel Tn along the guide member **35**, and the knife is energized while it is positioned in the tunnel Tn. The lumen of the tunnel Tn can be dilated by incising the inner wall of the tunnel Tn by energization.

(111) As the knife to be used, a sphincterotome used for the above-mentioned EST is suitable. FIG. **23** shows a state in which a sphincterotome **90** is positioned in the tunnel Tn. The sphincterotome **90** has a wire knife **92** arranged along the outer peripheral surface of the tube **91**. When dilating the lumen of the tunnel Tn, first, the distal end of the tube **91** (including the wire knife **92**) is inserted into the tunnel Tn, and the wire knife **92** is energized from the site in contact with the tissue to make an initial incision. At that time, the wire knife **92** may or may not be stretched in a bow shape. Then, while incising the tissue with a wire knife **92**, the tube **91** is pushed deep into the tunnel Tn to extend the total length of the tunnel Tn. The present invention is not limited to this, and the sphincterotome **90** may be first inserted deep into the tunnel Tn, and then an energization incision may be made. Specifically, first, the distal end of the tube **91** is inserted as deep as possible in the tunnel Tn in a state where the knife wire **92** is aligned with the tube **91** as much as possible (a state in which the radius of curvature of the curve of the tube **91** is increased, and a state in which the wire knife **92** is not stretched in an arch shape). At that time, the distal end of the wire knife **92** is located in the deep part of the tunnel Tn or in the bile duct, and the proximal end of the wire knife **92** is located in the duodenum. After that, the wire knife **92** is energized to make an incision in the tissue.

(112) For the incision with the sphincterotome, the operator may appropriately adjust the tension of

the wire knife **92**, the number of times of energization, the amount of incision, and the like according to the dilation amount of the tunnel Tn desired by the operator. The incision position is preferably on the mouth side of the inner wall of the tunnel Tn, and more preferably in the range of 11:00 to 12:00 when the front image of the mouth-side ridge Op shown in FIG. **6** is regarded as a clock face.

(113) After dilating the lumen of the tunnel Tn, various treatments and observations described in the first embodiment can be performed. Due to the dilation of the tunnel Tn, various devices used for treatment can be easily inserted into the bile duct from the duodenum via the tunnel.

(114) When placing a plurality of drainage stents, placing large-diameter drainage stents, removing large calculus, or the like, it is preferable to further dilate the tunnel Tn, and balloons and knives are suitable as means.

(115) When desiring to greatly dilate the lumen of the tunnel Tn using a balloon, a balloon catheter **70** to which a balloon **71** is attached is inserted into the tunnel Tn formed along the guide member **35**, and the balloon **71** is dilated in the tunnel in as shown in FIG. **21**, so that the lumen of the tunnel Tn can be dilated. When dilating the tunnel Tn with the balloon **71**, the distal end of the balloon **71** is located in the bile duct and the proximal end of the balloon **71** is located in the duodenum.

(116) If the balloon catheter **70** does not enter the lumen of the tunnel Tn, the balloon catheter **70** may be inserted into the tunnel Tn after being slightly dilated in advance with the energizing dilator, catheter, knife, or the like, and then may be further dilated by the balloon as described above.

(117) When desiring to greatly dilate the lumen of the tunnel Tn using a knife without using a balloon catheter or the like, as described above, by incising the tissue while appropriately adjusting the tension of the wire knife **92**, the number of times of energization, the amount of incision, or the like, the lumen of the tunnel Tn may be dilated to the extent that a treatment tool such as a stent or a calculus can pass through.

(118) Since the dilated tunnel may gradually shrink thereafter, a stent **100** may be placed in the tunnel Tn as shown in FIG. **24**. At that time, an end of the stent on the proximal side is located in the duodenum, and an end of the stent on the distal side is located in the bile duct (or in the tunnel). The stent **100** may be made of plastic, but it is preferable to use a self-dilatable metallic stent having a self-dilating ability, for example, a self-dilatable stent having a self-dilating ability formed by using a metal wire or the like because it is easier to maintain the dilated state. The self-dilatable stent may be a covered stent provided with a coating.

(119) FIG. **25** shows an example of a state in which the drainage stent **60** is placed in the bile duct while the stent **100** is placed in the tunnel Tn. Both the stenosis Stand the stent **100** are located between both end portions **60a** and **60b** of the drainage stent **60**. Further, the present invention is not limited to this, and the proximal end of the drainage stent may be located in the bile duct.

(120) FIG. **26** shows an example of a state in which calculus C is removed by a basket-type treatment tool **110** while the stent **100** is placed in the tunnel Tn. Since the tunnel Tn is dilated by the stent **100**, even a large calculus can be taken out from the bile duct without being crushed. If the calculus is not very large, the calculus may be scraped out with a calculus balloon inflated upstream of the calculus, or if the calculus is too large to pass through the stent **100**, the calculus may be crushed and then removed out of the bile duct.

(121) While the stent **100** is placed in the tunnel Tn, a cholangioscope may be inserted into the bile duct through the stent **100** to perform diagnosis or treatment.

(122) The stent **100** may be removed after the desired observation or treatment is completed.

(123) Although the present invention has been described above using one embodiment and its modified mode, the technical scope of the present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment. It is possible to change the combination of components, make various changes to each component, and delete them without departing from the spirit of the present invention.

(124) For example, the needle used to form a tunnel may be configured to be energized. FIG. 27 shows a schematic view of a puncture device **130** including an energizable needle tube **33A**. An operation part **131** attached to the sheath **31** has a guide wire port **132** and is connected to a power supply **133**. When a current is supplied from the power supply **133** to the needle tube **33A** in a state where the distal end of the metal needle tube **33A** is in contact with the tissue, the tissue in contact with the distal end of the needle tube **33A** is energized. The needle tube **33A** does not need to extend over the entire length of the sheath **31**, and for example, the needle tube **33A** may be connected to the distal end of the resin tube extending from the operation part **131** to the middle of the sheath **31**, and the power supply **133** and the metal needle tube **33A** may be connected by a metal wire.

(125) Since the needle tube used in the present invention needs to pass through an endoscope that is strongly curved toward the duodenal papilla, there is a limit to the pushability that can be imparted. Since the needle tube **33A** can be inserted into the oral ridge while cauterizing the tissue by energization, it can be inserted into the tissue with a smaller force than the needle tube without the energization function. Therefore, the pushability required is lower than that of a needle tube having no energizing function, and the operability in the endoscope can be improved.

(126) After forming the tunnel with the puncture device **130**, the guide member **35** can be easily placed in the bile duct by inserting the guide member **35** into the guide wire port **132** and projecting it from the needle tube **33A** in the same manner as described above.

(127) The guide member **35** may be independently inserted into the bile duct from the tunnel after the needle tube **33A** is removed from the tunnel.

(128) The puncture device **130** may be configured to be fixed to the endoscope.

(129) In addition to the puncture device **130**, a catheter equipped with an energizing tip at the distal end described above can also be used for forming a tunnel.

(130) A balloon covering the ultrasonic transducer may be attached to the endoscope so that the balloon can be filled with liquid. By doing so, the liquid-filled balloon is brought into contact with the duodenum wall, so that the distal end of the sheath can be visualized on an ultrasound image without storing water in the duodenum. In this case, it is sufficient that a part of the puncture device **130**, for example, the distal end of the sheath is pressed against the oral ridge, or the puncture device **130** is recessed into the oral ridge.

Claims

1. A method for forming an access route to a bile duct, the method comprising: forming a tunnel extending from an oral ridge of a duodenal papilla, which is located on an oral side of a natural opening of the duodenal papilla, to the bile duct; and dilating a lumen of the tunnel more than when it was formed.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the tunnel is formed by piercing a needle from the oral ridge toward the bile duct.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dilating of the lumen includes dilating by inflating a balloon.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dilating of the lumen includes making an incision in an inner wall of the tunnel with a knife.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dilating of the lumen includes placing a catheter within the tunnel.
6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising: after removing the catheter, inserting a treatment tool from a duodenum into the bile duct along a guide wire inserted in the dilated tunnel.
7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising: inserting a treatment tool into the dilated tunnel.
8. The method according to claim 2, further comprising: protruding a guide wire from the needle,

wherein the needle is removed while leaving the guide wire.

9. The method according to claim 3, further comprising: after removing the balloon, inserting a treatment tool from inside a duodenum into the dilated tunnel.

10. The method according to claim 4, further comprising: after removing the knife, inserting a treatment tool from inside a duodenum into the dilated tunnel.

11. A method for forming an access route to a bile duct, the method comprising: forming a tunnel extending from an oral ridge of a duodenal papilla, which is located on an oral side of a natural opening of the duodenal papilla, to the bile duct; and placing a stent so that at least a part of the stent is located in the tunnel.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the tunnel is formed by piercing a needle from the oral ridge toward the bile duct.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising: protruding a guide wire from the needle, wherein the needle is removed while leaving the guide wire, and the stent is placed with the guide wire as a guide.

14. The method according to claim 11, wherein the stent has self-dilating ability, the method comprising: inserting a treatment tool into the stent.

15. The method according to claim 11, wherein the stent has self-dilating ability, the method comprising: inserting a drainage stent into the stent; and placing the drainage stent so that the stent and a stenotic site formed in the bile duct are located between both ends of the drainage stent.

16. A method for forming an access route to a bile duct, the method comprising: forming a tunnel extending from an oral ridge of a duodenal papilla, which is located on an oral side of a natural opening of the duodenal papilla, to the bile duct, wherein the tunnel is formed by piercing a needle, which is configured to energize a tissue, from the oral ridge toward the bile duct.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising: placing a drainage stent in the tunnel.

18. The method according to claim 16, further comprising: dilating a lumen of the tunnel by a balloon.

19. The method according to claim 16, further comprising: incising an inner wall of the tunnel with a knife.

20. The method according to claim 16, further comprising: placing a catheter in the tunnel.
