The overall incidence of duodenal stump fistula (DSF) or duodenal stump leakage is reportedly between 1.6% to 5% and is one of the most serious complications of Billroth-II or Roux en Y reconstruction after gastrectomy for gastric cancer (1,2). DSF is a rare complication but is associated with a high morbidity and mortality rate. The mortality rate of DSF is reported as 16% to 20% (1). This serious complication affects not only patients and their families, but also the surgeon especially in cases with laparoscopic gastrectomy. Several investigators presented their clinical experience, such as the clinical course and the pertinent management of DSF (3,4). It is possible to predict possibilities of DSF in some patients, such as patient’s age, co-morbidity, nutritional status impairment and technical difficulties during surgery (5,6).

During the past two decades, laparoscopic gastrectomy for stage I gastric cancer has become an attractive alternative to open gastrectomy in Korea, Japan and China (7-12). Although the incidence of wound complication in laparoscopic gastrectomy is significantly lower in open gastrectomy, the incidence of overall complication is similar between the two groups (7,8). However, the incidence of major complication, such as DSF or intra-abdominal bleeding in laparoscopic gastrectomy remains unclear (9).

I have performed additional mechanical reinforcement on staple-line of duodenal stump. Herein, we introduced a new and simple surgical technique for reducing DSF during laparoscopic gastrectomy for gastric cancer.

**Surgical technique (Figure 1)**

For laparoscopic gastrectomy in cases of gastric cancer,
five trocars were used while standing at the patient’s right side during the entire procedure. After cutting of duodenal stump of about 1–1.5 cm length using linear stapler, Laparoscopic reinforcement suture (LARS) commenced from upper to lower part on staple-line of duodenal stump. Continuous suture with invagination was performed using a barbed suture (Figure 2). In case of patient with short duodenal stump because of chronic ulcer or ectopic pancreas at duodenal bulb or cancer invasion to pylorus, 3 or 4 interrupted sutures without invagination of duodenal stump was conducted using barbed sutures.

In conclusion, DSF after laparoscopic gastrectomy for gastric cancer did not occur in my experience and LARS can be performed in a relatively short operation time without any technical difficulties. LARS on staple-line of duodenal stump can be helpful to prevent DSF after laparoscopic gastrectomy for gastric cancer.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Dong-A University Research Fund.

Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The author has no conflicts of interest to declare.

Informed Consent: Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this manuscript and any accompanying images.

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doi: 10.21037/ales.2017.01.09