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DOI: 10.17235/reed.2021.7821/2021
Link: PubMed (Epub ahead of print)

Please cite this article as:
Honrubia Lopez Raúl, Mitsunaga Yutaka, Hoteya Shu. Use of Buscapine (scopolamine butylbromide) to facilitate specimen fixation after endoscopic submucosal dissection. Rev Esp Enferm Dig 2021. doi: 10.17235/reed.2021.7821/2021.

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Use of Buscopan® (scopolamine butylbromide) to facilitate specimen fixation after endoscopic submucosal dissection

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Keywords: Endoscopic submucosal dissection. Stomach. Buscopan®.

Dear Editor,

Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) is a technique used for the en-bloc resection of early neoplastic lesions in the gastrointestinal tract. A step that must be carried out after excision is the pinning down of the specimen on a support plate, such as a cork board, to avoid artifacts due to tissue contraction (1). After ESD, lesion borders usually curl up from contraction, hence this procedure must be carefully performed to prevent damaging the specimen. Recently, Nishizawa T et al. (2) reported that dropping adrenaline onto the lesion results in edge relaxation, which facilitates fixation (2). However, the use of other drugs, such as Buscopan®, that induce gastrointestinal smooth muscle relaxation with potentially similar effects has not been described.

Below, two ESD specimens from two different institutions are shown. These specimens correspond to gastric lesions (Fig. 1A-B). Buscopan® was applied on their surface and the edges became relaxed, thus facilitating stretching (Fig. 1C-D) and fixation.

In conclusion, the use of Buscopan® may help in the processing of excised lesions by facilitating pinning out and reducing the risk of damaging specimens.

Conflict of interest: the authors declare no conflict of interest.

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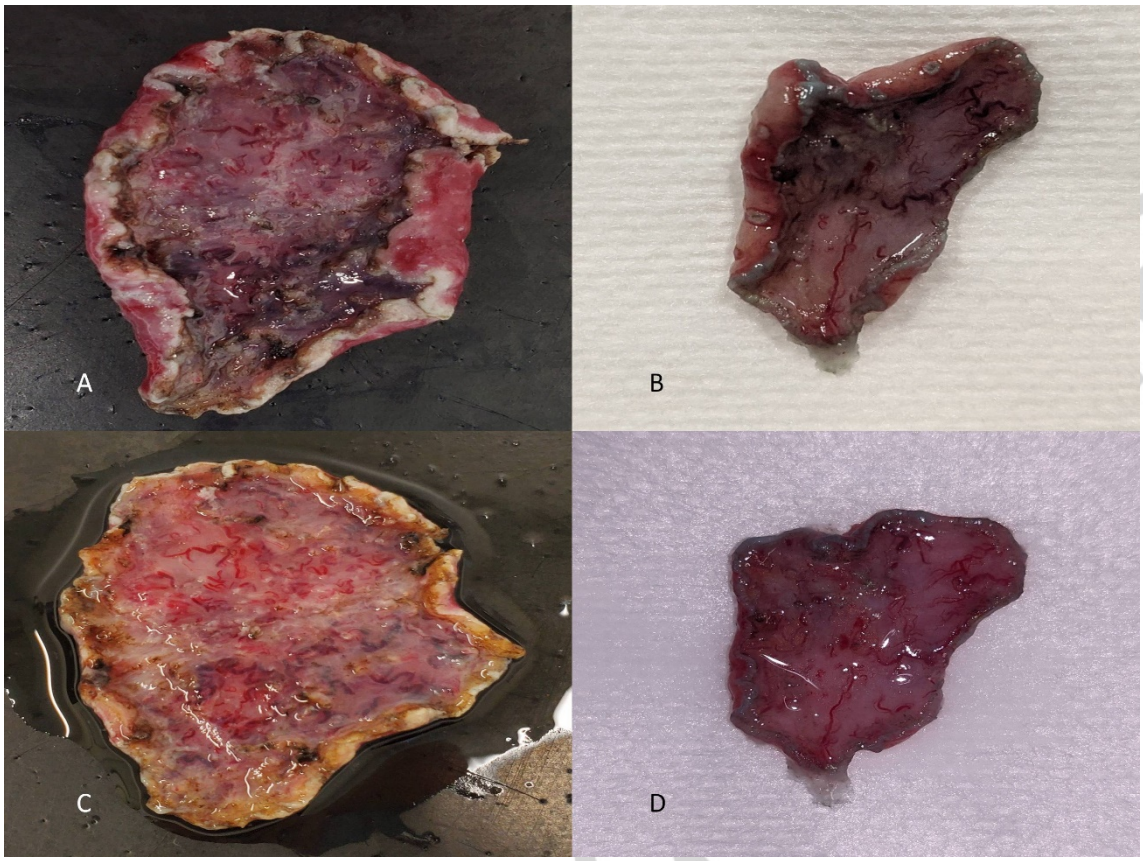

Fig. 1. A-B: gastric lesions after ESD, their curled up borders are clearly seen. C-D: after Buscopan® administration edges become relaxed and stretching is feasible.