

Endoscopic treatment of intramural fistula and mucosal tear after peroral endoscopic myotomy

Peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) is a safe procedure, with few reported adverse events [1–3]. The integrity of the mucosal flap at the end of the procedure is crucial to prevent leakages and infections. We report on a rare complication after POEM.

A 72-year-old woman with type III achalasia and very severe dysphagia underwent POEM. The perioperative course was uneventful, but 2 weeks later, she presented with chest pain and dysphagia for solids.

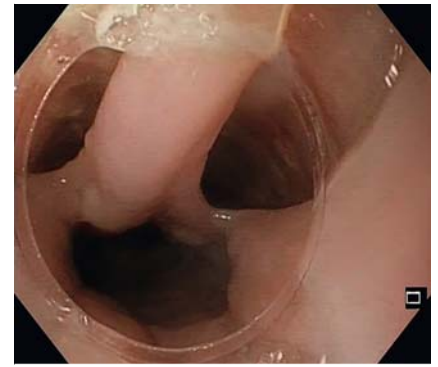
An esophagogastroduodenoscopy showed complete dehiscence of the mucosotomy (▶ Fig. 1). Multiple openings on the mucosal flap were present, placing the real esophageal lumen in communication with a large “false lumen” of the submucosal tunnel created during POEM (▶ Fig. 2). The esophageal wall, where the myotomy had been performed, was fibrotic but intact. Computed tomography (CT) did not reveal any leakage or periesophageal collection (▶ Fig. 3).

In order to avoid food becoming lodged within the false lumen, the mucosal flap along the tunnel was cut, leaving the fibrotic esophageal wall behind the mucosa completely exposed. A triangle-tip knife with Endocut mode was used for the mucosal incision, starting from 25 cm to 37 cm from the incisors (▶ Fig. 4). The procedure was relatively easy, quick, and uncomplicated (▶ Video 1). After the procedure, the patient experienced mild, self-limiting fever. CT scan and Gastrografin swallow showed no leakages or complications, and the patient immediately restarted oral feeding. At 1-year follow-up, the patient was in good condition, without dysphagia.

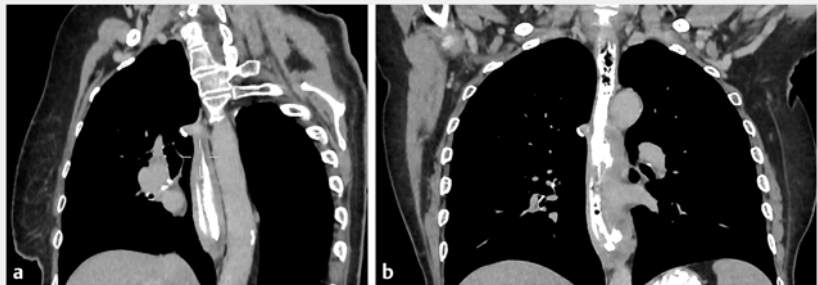
In this case, it is unknown when the dehiscence of the mucosotomy occurred, but a strong and secure fibrotic reaction prevented any leakage. Food entrapment within the false lumen and dysphagia were the main symptoms. Incision of the mucosal flap along the false esophageal



▶ Fig. 1 Esophagogastroduodenoscopy showed dehiscence of the mucosal incision, which had been clipped at the end of the peroral endoscopic myotomy procedure.



▶ Fig. 2 Multiple tears along the mucosal flap placed the esophageal lumen in communication with the submucosal tunnel.



▶ Fig. 3 Computed tomography images, showing an esophageal false lumen, filled with hydro-soluble contrast.

lumen, a kind of fistulotomy, guaranteed a quick solution to an unusual clinical problem [4].

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Competing interests

Dr. G. Costamagna is a member of the advisory board of Cook Medical, Olympus Co. and Johnson & Johnson. He received a Research Grant from Boston Scientific Inc. and Apollo Endosurgery Inc.

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▶ Fig. 4 Cutting of the mucosal flap using a triangle-tip knife.



Video 1 Esophagogastroduodenoscopy revealed multiple tears of the mucosal flap, and a large communication between the esophagus and the submucosal tunnel. The mucosal flap was cut, to avoid food entrapment within the false lumen.

Bibliography

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