

## Esophageal obstruction due to a collapsed biodegradable esophageal stent

A 74-year-old man with a previous history of surgery for pharyngolaryngeal neoplasia and reconstruction in 2006 with muscle graft was referred to our unit for dysphagia. Upper endoscopy showed a narrow stricture at the muscle graft-esophageal anastomosis that was 20 mm long. The patient underwent five sessions of esophageal dilation with the CRE Balloon Dilator (Boston Scientific, Natick, Massachusetts, USA) with early relapse and weight loss.

Therapeutic options were discussed with the patient, and we decided to place an 80-mm SX-ELLA Esophageal Degradable BD stent (ELLA-CS, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic). It was placed under fluoroscopic guidance without complications. The patient presented an initial improvement from dysphagia grade 4 to dysphagia grade 2, but after 9 weeks he attended the emergency ward for aphagia.

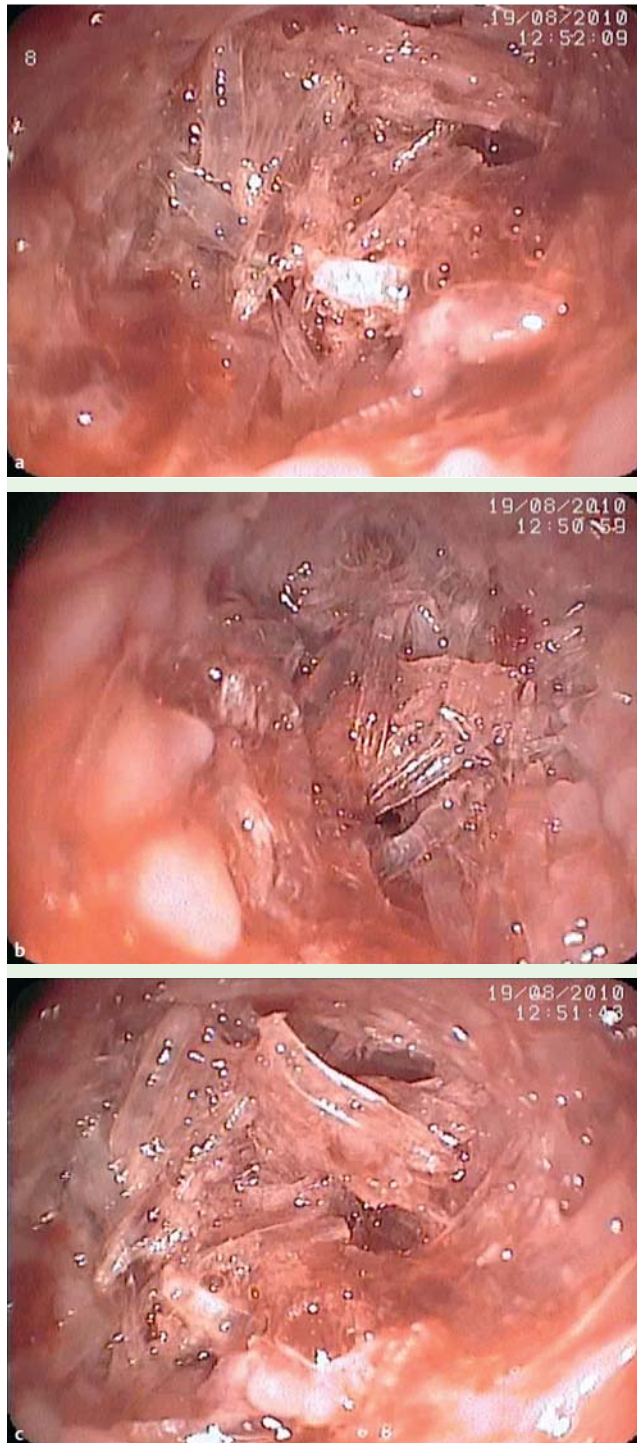
An urgent upper endoscopy was performed showing a collapse of the biodegradable stent mesh inside the esophageal lumen (▶ Fig. 1); the collapsed mesh did not allow the passage of a standard Pentax endoscope. A foreign body forceps was used to remove the filaments of partially reabsorbed polydioxanone mesh until a clear lumen was obtained that allowed easy passage of the endoscope (▶ Fig. 2). The patient was discharged from hospital the next day with an improvement of his dysphagia.

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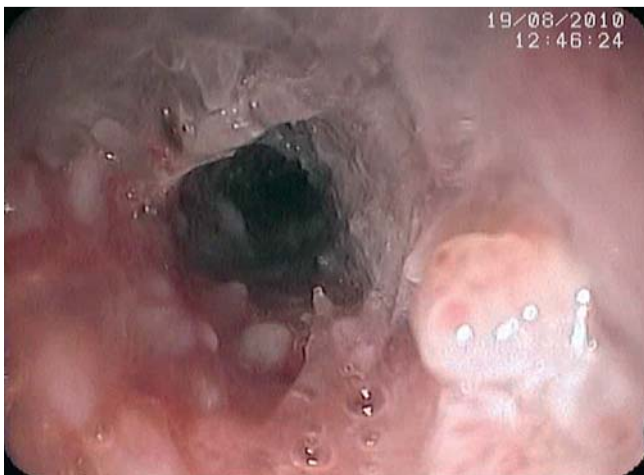
**Competing interests:** None

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**Fig. 1** a–c Biodegradable stent mesh collapsed inside the esophageal lumen.



**Fig. 2** Esophageal lumen after removing the stent mesh with foreign body forceps.

#### **Bibliography**

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