Cat scratch esophagus

A 45-year-old woman was admitted to our gastroenterology clinic with dyspepsia. She had undergone an upper endoscopy in another hospital 1 week before admission to our clinic. We performed an upper endoscopy in July 2010, and it revealed tears along the long axis of the esophagus. These superficial longitudinal lesions were evenly distributed around the circumference, resembling a cartwheel (Fig. 1). Mucosal biopsies from the esophageal mucosa showed detachment of the squamous epithelial layer with mild lymphoplasmacytic infiltration (Fig. 2). A control upper endoscopy of the patient in August 2010 demonstrated the complete healing of the esophageal lesions without any treatment.

Cat scratch morphology is accepted as an innocent finding due to its normal histology [2]. However, there were insufficient data regarding the natural clinical course of the lesion. Our case demonstrates that cat scratch esophagus is a self-healing lesion and confirms that it is an innocent lesion.

References

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0031-1291522
Endoscopy 2012; 44: E44
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Fig. 1 First endoscopy showing cat scratch lesion on the esophageal wall.

Fig. 2 Histology of the esophageal biopsy, showing traumatic breaks within the squamous epithelial layers. Mild lymphocytic inflammation was observed (Hematoxylin and eosin, × 100.)

in the esophagus may act as barriers and increase the intraluminal pressure if they do not open properly at the right time during air insufflation.

Cat scratch esophagus is a rare entity. It was first reported in the colon, in 2007 [1]. A few case reports of cat scratch colon were published in the English literature following the initial description of this entity [2–4]. Recently, a case was described of linear esophageal tears in a man, similar to the colonic cat scratch lesion [5]. We report the second case of cat scratch esophagus and describe its natural clinical course.