Over-the-scope clip for a pharyngeal perforation caused by a self-inflicted stab wound to the neck

An 86-year-old woman was admitted to the emergency room with a self-inflicted 3-cm horizontal wound to the left lateral side of her neck between the cricoid inferiorly and the angle of the mandible superiorly. Pain, tenderness, and bloody saliva suggested a penetrating zone II neck perforation [1]. No signs of significant injury, such as severe active hemorrhage, bruit, pulse deficit, hoarseness, stridor, respiratory distress, hemiparesis, expanding hematoma, or subcutaneous emphysema, were observed clinically or found on computed tomography (CT) scanning.

The patient, having been given a general anesthetic with orotracheal intubation, underwent surgical exploration [2]. The sternocleidomastoid muscle was almost sectioned, the left submandibular gland was lacerated up to the trachea, but there were no vascular or nerve injuries. Intraoperative flexible endoscopy identified a 9-mm clean-cut perforation of the hypopharynx when the tip of a rubber probe was pushed through the wound (Fig. 1a).

An 11-mm traumatic over-the-scope clip (OTSC; Ovesco Endoscopy, Tübingen, Germany) with an anchor that grasped and invaginated the margins into the cap was used to close the perforation (Fig. 1b). No technical difficulties were encountered and there were no adverse events. The neck wound was sutured leaving an external drain in place.

After 24 hours, a Gastrografin swallow and a further CT scan were performed, which showed no evidence of leakage (Fig. 2). The patient resumed an oral diet, and reported mild odynophagia not requiring specific therapy that decreased progressively and disappeared after 5 weeks, at which time it appeared that the OTSC had been swallowed, as it was no longer visible on weekly radiographs of the neck.

This unique case suggests that an OTSC can be easily and successfully deployed in the hypopharynx, as in other gastrointestinal locations [3], despite the narrow operating space, and is associated with mild odynophagia. The OTSC expands the possible treatment options for minimally invasive flexible endoscopic closure of accidental and iatrogenic pharyngeal perforations that are potentially devastating [4] and difficult to treat with standard through-the-scope clips, and which may otherwise require prolonged conservative treatment or surgical intervention [5].

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_TTT_1AO_2AN

Competing interests: None
Federico Iacopini¹, Marc Oliver Schurr², Guido Costamagna³, Agostino Scozzarro¹

¹ Department of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy, Ospedale S. Giuseppe, Rome, Italy
² Department of Surgical Digestive Endoscopy, Policlinico Gemelli, Rome, Italy
³ Steinbeis University Berlin, IHCI-Institute, Tübingen, Germany

References


Bibliography

DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0033-1359126
Endoscopy 2014; 46: E42–E43
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG
Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Federico Iacopini, MD
UOC Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy
Ospedale S. Giuseppe
Via del mare 1, Albano L.
Rome 00041
Italy
Fax: +39-06-93273216
federico.iacopini@gmail.com