Late transmural mesh migration into the esophagus after Nissen fundoplication

A 71-year-old woman was referred to the gastroenterology department with progressive dysphagia and weight loss over 4 weeks. She had undergone a laparoscopic fundoplication with closure of the hiatal crura with mesh 5 years previously for heartburn due to gastroesophageal reflux disease and a large hiatal hernia.

Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy showed an irregularly shaped foreign body obstructing the esophageal lumen immediately proximal to the cardia ([Fig. 1 a](#)). This was assumed to be a food bolus, so the object was extracted using a Roth net standard retriever. Surprisingly, the foreign body proved to be a surgical mesh ([Fig. 1 b](#)). The esophageal wall was again inspected after this endoscopic extraction. There was evidence of severe lumen tortuosity and ulcerated stenosis at the gastroesophageal junction, and the opening of a fistula was found 1 cm above the cardia on the anterior wall of the esophagus ([Fig. 2](#)).

Thoracoabdominal computed tomography (CT) scanning confirmed an intra-abdominal air collection at the level of the fundoplication and an esophagogastric fistula ([Fig. 3 a](#)). A covered self-expanding metal stent (Hanarostent; 80×14 mm) was inserted to treat both the esophageal stricture and the fistula ([Fig. 3 b](#)). There were no complications during the procedure, following which the patient reported no dysphagia (grade 0).

The stent was removed 6 weeks later without complications and complete healing of the fistula was confirmed. A further CT scan showed reduction of the intra-abdominal air collection ([Fig. 3 c](#)) with the patient reporting weight gain and no symptoms of dysphagia.

Closure of the hiatal crura has proven to be a fundamental issue in laparoscopic antireflux surgery [1]. Mesh reinforcement is not without complications and the incidence of these complications may be greater than previously reported [2, 3]. We describe a rare case of dysphagia caused by an esophagogastric fistula that was secondary to complete transmural esophageal migration of the surgical mesh 5 years after Nissen fundoplication and was resolved by endoscopic management.

**Competing interests:** None

**Fig. 1** The foreign body that was obstructing the esophageal lumen: a seen endoscopically; b following its extraction, when it was revealed to be a surgical mesh.

**Fig. 2** Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy image after endoscopic extraction of the surgical material showing the opening of a fistula 1 cm above the cardia.

**Fig. 3** Computed tomography (CT) images showing: a an intra-abdominal air collection at the level of the fundoplication and an esophagogastric fistula; b a covered self-expanding metal stent in position to treat both the esophageal stricture and the fistula; c a reduction in the size of the intra-abdominal air collection after removal of the stent and healing of the fistula 6 weeks later.

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Leitão Cátia et al. Late transmural mesh migration after Nissen fundoplication... Endoscopy 2016; 48: E166–E167

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