Mucosal bridge formation in a patient with esophageal epidermoid metaplasia

Esophageal mucosal bridge formation is an uncommon condition that is believed to result from mucosa injury. Ingestion of corrosive agents, mediastinal radiation therapy, and variceal sclerotherapy have been identified as possible causes, but mucosal bridges within the esophagus have also been described in chronic inflammatory conditions such as Crohn’s disease [1,2].

A 53-year-old man with a long history of smoking and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease presented with dysphagia and bolus obstruction. Endoscopy revealed multiple coalescent white patches and plaque-like lesions that covered large parts of the esophageal mucosa (Fig. 1a). In the middle portion of the esophagus, large irregular mucosal bridges were found that linked the anterior and posterior walls transversely across the lumen (Fig. 1b), ultimately leading to double-lumen formation (Video 1). Biopsies obtained from the white patches proved epidermoid metaplasia of the esophagus, characterized by squamous epithelium with a well-developed granular cell layer, hyperorthokeratosis with focal parakeratosis, and mild peripapillary lymphocytic infiltrate (Fig. 2).

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AB_2AC_3AD

Competing interests: None

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0042-117225
Endoscopy 2016; 48: E325
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

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