

Esophageal Crohn's Disease With Esophagopleural Fistula

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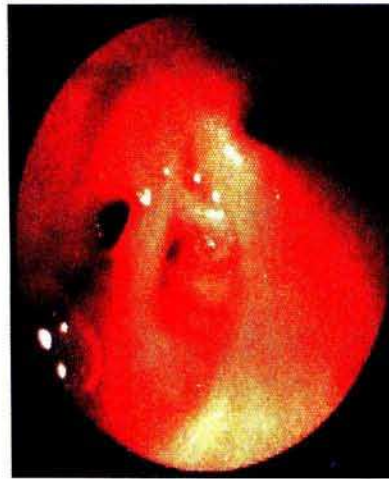


Figure 1 Intramural fistula in the distal third of the esophagus



Figure 2 Oesophagopleural fistula secondary to Crohn's disease

Fistulas to the bronchi or mediastinum in esophageal Crohn's disease are rare. Only five such cases have been reported. Diagnosis is by barium swallow with water-soluble contrast. Endoscopic findings are as usual in Crohn's disease, but endoscopic ultrasonography can demonstrate intramural and perimural echopoor bands corresponding to fistulas.

We report here a 69-year-old woman with Crohn's disease who developed an esophagopleural fistula in the lower third of the esophagus and secondary empyema. She was successfully treated with intercostal drainage, antimicrobials, and sulfasalazine.