A 43-year-old woman presented to our hospital with emesis and coffee-ground output from the gastrostomy tube that she had had placed by interventional radiology 1 year before. On arrival, her heart rate was 140 beats per minute and her systolic blood pressure was 50 mm Hg. Laboratory testing showed her white blood cell count to be $3 \times 10^9$/L and her lactate was 3.8 mmol/L. A gastrostomy was in place, without any external fixation device. Computed tomography showed a mass containing small bowel, which was thought to be a jejuno-gastric intussusception (Fig. 1, 2).

Upper endoscopy revealed the gastrostomy, with its balloon inflated, approximately 10 cm from the gastric entry site (Fig. 3), and a large, purple, friable mass emanating from the pylorus (Fig. 4, 5). Because the intussusception could not be reduced endoscopically, an emergency laparotomy was performed and a retrograde jejuno-gastric intussusception with ischemia was found. The bowel was dusky but was not perforated (Fig. 6). We resected 20 cm of jejunum and pathological examination revealed hemorrhagic coagulative necrosis and acute inflammation. The patient made an uncomplicated recovery postoperatively.

Gastrostomy tubes have been associated with rare complications such as bleeding, infection, peritonitis, and migration through the gastric wall [1]. Jejuno-gastric intussusception, first described by Bozzi in 1914 [2], is a rare complication of gastroenterostomy, and around 200 cases have been reported worldwide [3]. Only a few cases have been reported following the placement of percutaneous gastrostomy tubes [3, 4]. Presenting symptoms are mainly obstructive, with epigastric pain and nausea with emesis [3]. The pathogenesis of jejuno-gastric intussusception associated with feeding tubes is incompletely understood. Some have suggested that the inflated balloon migrates into the small bowel, and that tube repositioning without balloon deflation intussceptes the small bowel into the stomach [5]. In this case, the emergency department notes indicated that nursing staff had pulled on the gastrostomy after the emesis began without first deflating the balloon. Although rare, jejuno-gastric intussusception should be considered in patients with feeding tubes who present with gastrointestinal bleeding or obstruction.
Acknowledgment

We would like to thank Dr. Michael Hull from the Department of Pathology and Immunology at Washington University School of Medicine for his assistance with the pathology specimens.

References


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Endoscopy 2007; 39: E262 – E263
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

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Fig. 5 A close-up endoscopic view of the friable, dusky, intussuscepted small bowel, which is covered with gelatinous exudate.

Fig. 6 A segment of jejunum is mobilized intraoperatively. Patches of pale, dusky serosa are widespread on the left, and focal, transmural necrosis was identified in the histologic sections of this portion of the intestinal segment.