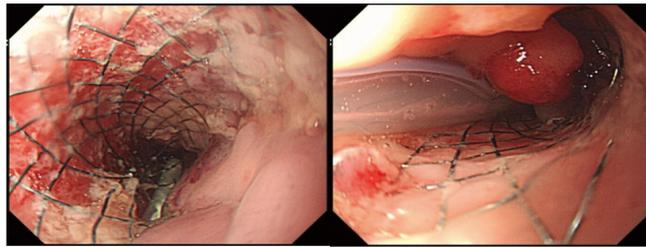


Esophageal Stent Compressing Left Atrium Result Shock and Pulmonary Congestion

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Background: Esophageal stents are commonly used for treatment of luminal narrowing of esophagus due to neoplasms, benign strictures and other conditions, especially when surgery is not feasible. Adverse events including bleeding, tracheal compression, stent migration, and fistula formation can be seen but mechanical compression of vascular structures or heart is uncommon. **Case:** A 73-year-old man with a history of lye stricture, treated with esophageal stent multiple times, and had partial stent removal with bypass using colon interposition due to chronic esophageal inflammation, visited emergency room (ER) presenting with vomit, aspiration, and dyspnea. When he arrived at ER, his blood pressure was 96/53, pulse rate was 105, respiratory rate was 22, body temperature 36.0°C, and peripheral saturation was 76%. Mechanical ventilation was applied on hospital day (HD) 2 due to progressing respiratory distress. Using antibiotics and vasopressors, vital signs were stabilized. We tried to insert Levin tube but failed due to severe stricture, and removal of esophageal stent was impossible due to severe adhesions. On HD 14, his blood pressure suddenly dropped to 70/28 mmHg and heart rate increased to 120 beat per minute. Chest radiograph showed bilateral pleural effusion and pulmonary infiltrates suggesting acute pulmonary edema. Because reason of pulmonary congestion was unclear, echocardiography was performed which showed left atrium compressed by esophageal stent. Despite aggressive fluid resuscitation and high dose vasopressor use, blood pressure and heart rate fell and he died from cardiogenic shock and ventilator failure. **Conclusions:** This case shows a rare complication of esophageal stent, which is used in a variety of endoscopic therapies. Possibility of mechanical effect of stent should always be in mind in patients with hemodynamic instability.



Esophageal stent showing severe stenosis and adhesion. Inserting Levin tube was not possible.