

A case of Anisakiasis involving esophageal mucosa

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Background: Anisakiasis is an infection caused by Anisakis species and humans become infected by eating raw or undercooked fish. Anisakiasis can make direct tissue damage or allergic reaction of larvae. There have been reports about gastric anisakiasis, however rarely reported on esophageal infection. We report a case of anisakiasis involving esophageal mucosa after eating raw fish.

Case report: A 41-year-old male visited hospital with epigastric pain lasting more than three hours. He did not have any medical history. At the time of visit, his vital signs were stable; blood pressure 129/86mmHg, heart rate 105/min, respiration rate 20/min, and body temperature 36.4°C. His bowel sounds were normal, with no abdominal tenderness. In the history taking, he mentioned eating raw fish the day before visiting hospital. Laboratory examination showed no remarkable values. Abdomen and pelvis CT showed fatty liver and tiny renal cyst at left kidney. There was no mass or abnormal wall thickening in gastrointestinal tract. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy was performed and there was living anisakis at esophagus upper incisors 23cm (Figure 1). It was removed by a biopsy forceps and pathology review showed a nematode parasite, anisakis. After procedure, the patient was discharged and his epigastric pain was resolved.

Conclusion: Anisakiasis is relatively common in Korean due to eating habit, however this is an unusual case which was found on esophageal mucosa. If Anisakiasis is suspected through patient's medical history and physical findings, early endoscopic procedure can be helpful.

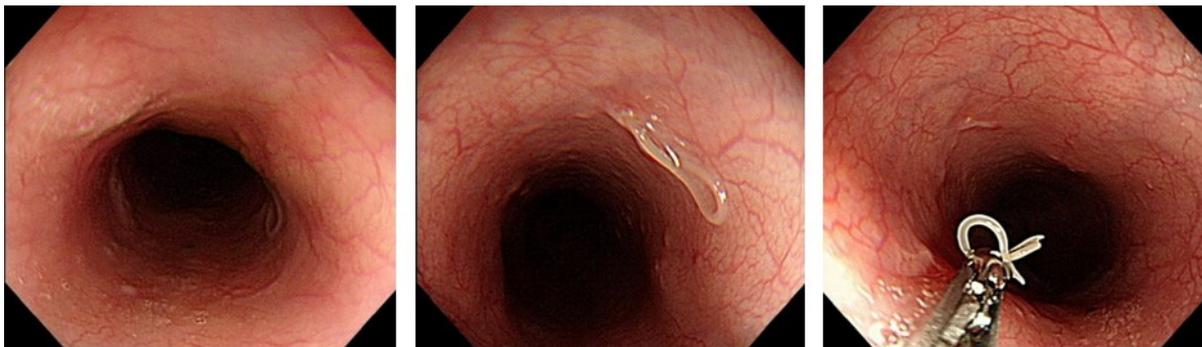


Figure 1. In endoscopic findings, Anisakis is shown in the upper esophagus and is removed by biopsy forceps