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An esophageal cyst containing heterotopic gastric glands

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Key words: Esophageal lesion. Gastric glands.

Dear Editor,

Esophageal cysts are rare benign esophageal lesions that are usually an incidental finding during an esophagogastroduodenoscopy. We report the first case of an esophageal cyst containing heterotopic gastric glands.

Case report

A 71-year-old male came to our hospital for endoscopic treatment of a suspicious early gastric carcinoma. He had no symptoms such as hemorrhage, vomiting or weight loss and no family history of gastrointestinal carcinoma or previous surgeries. Upon presentation, the physical examination and laboratory studies were unremarkable. A 0.6 × 0.4 cm protrusive lesion with a smooth surface was found incidentally during the endoscopy examination, which was around 20 cm from the incisors (Fig. 1A). Endoscopic ultrasonography and enhanced computed tomography identified a cyst in the esophagus. The lesion was successfully removed by an endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) (Fig. 1B). Histological analysis revealed that the resected esophageal lesion was a cyst that contained gastric glands and the covering esophageal mucosa was intact (Figs. 1 C and D). The patient was discharged on postoperative day 5 and remained well after six months of follow-up.

DISCUSSION

Esophageal cysts are the second most common benign esophageal submucosal lesion after leiomyoma, yet their occurrence is rare (1). They are classified into three groups according to the embryological site of origin as inclusion cysts, retention cysts or mucocoeles and developmental or duplication cysts. The present case was an inclusion cyst. Pathological analysis is the most important tool for diagnosis. Esophageal cysts possess the ability of malignant transformation (2) and therefore must be removed via endoscopic or surgical approaches. There are few reports of heterotopic gastric mucosa in the lower esophagus (3) and to the best of our knowledge, this is the first case report of esophageal inclusion cysts containing heterotopic gastric glands. The cyst was successfully removed by an endoscopic mucosal resection.

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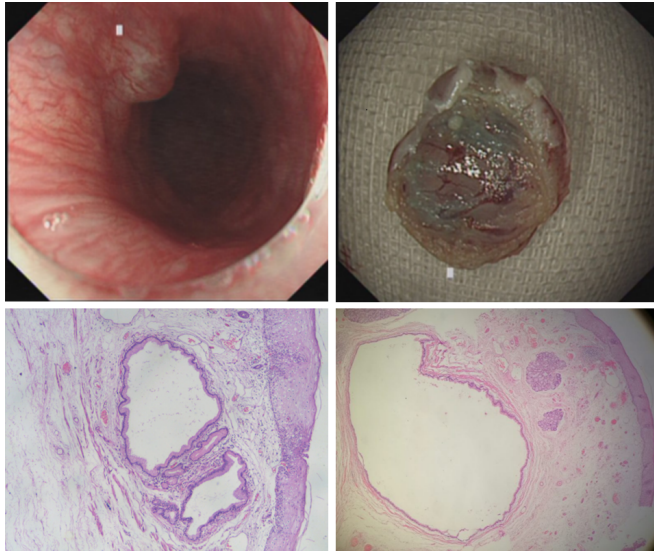


Fig. 1. A. Endoscopic appearance of the protrusive lesion located in the esophagus. B. Gross appearance of the resected specimen showing a well-encapsulated cyst. C. At the histologically level, there were several gastric glands in the lamina propria (H&E, ×40). D. Several gastric glands were also found in the submucosal layer (H&E, ×40).

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