REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE
ENFERMEDADES DIGESTIVAS
The Spanish Journal of Gastroenterology

Title:
A rare cause of esophageal mucosal and submucosal lesions

Authors:
De-Feng Li, Zheng-Lei Xu, Jun Yao

DOI: 10.17235/reed.2020.6531/2019
Link: PubMed (Epub ahead of print)

Please cite this article as:
Li De-Feng, Xu Zheng-Lei, Yao Jun. A rare cause of esophageal mucosal and submucosal lesions. Rev Esp Enferm Dig 2020. doi: 10.17235/reed.2020.6531/2019.

REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE
ENFERMEDADES DIGESTIVAS
The Spanish Journal of Gastroenterology

CC 6531

A rare cause of esophageal mucosal and submucosal lesions

De-Feng Li, Zheng-Lei Xu and Jun Yao

Department of Gastroenterology. The 2nd Clinical Medicine College. Shenzhen People's Hospital. Jinan University. Shenzhen, China

Correspondence: Jun Yao MD
e-mail: yj_1108@126.com

Keywords: Esophageal lesions. Betel nut.

Dear Editor,

A 45-year-old male was admitted with palpitations, chest discomfort and a swallowing obstruction of one hour duration after chewing a betel nut. The symptoms appeared within five minutes. His physical examination was unremarkable other than tachycardia and the results of routine laboratory testing were within the normal limits. An electrocardiogram showed sinus tachycardia (ST) and the echocardiography was normal. The patient was given routine oxygen, intravenous fluids and electrolyte replacement therapies. The symptoms of palpitation and chest discomfort were relieved after 30 minutes. However, the swallowing obstruction was not alleviated. The esophagogastroduodenoscopy showed a longitudinal hematoma and multiple superficial ulcers located 20 cm from the incisors down to the gastric cardia (Fig. 1A). Subsequently, an endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) was performed, showing that the longitudinal hematoma originated from the submucosa (Fig. 1B). The swallowing obstruction was resolved after one week and re-examination by esophagogastroduodenoscopy showed healing of the esophageal lesions.

Discussion

Betel nut chewing is common in many areas and is known to be harmful to humans,

especially due to the increased risk of oral carcinoma. However, few are aware of its adverse effects, particularly in acute toxicity. A systematic review reported 17 cases of adverse events associated with betel nut chewing. Most of them occurred within minutes of betel nut ingestion and all occurred within one hour, including nausea, vomiting, dizziness and palpitations, as well as severe symptoms such as coma, respiratory failure and acute myocardial infarction (1). To our knowledge, this was the first case report of betel nut exposure contributing to an acute esophageal lesion.

Funding support

This work was supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Guangdong Province (No. 2018A0303100024), the Three Engineering Training Funds in Shenzhen (No. SYLY201718, SYJY201714 and SYLY201801), the Technical Research and Development Project of Shenzhen (No. JCYJ20150403101028164) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 81502040).

References

1. Deng JF, Ger J, Tsai WJ, et al. Acute toxicities of betel nut: rare but probably overlooked events. J Toxicol Clin Toxicol 2001;39:355-60. DOI: 10.1081/CLT-100105155

REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE
ENFERMEDADES DIGESTIVAS
The Spanish Journal of Gastroenterology

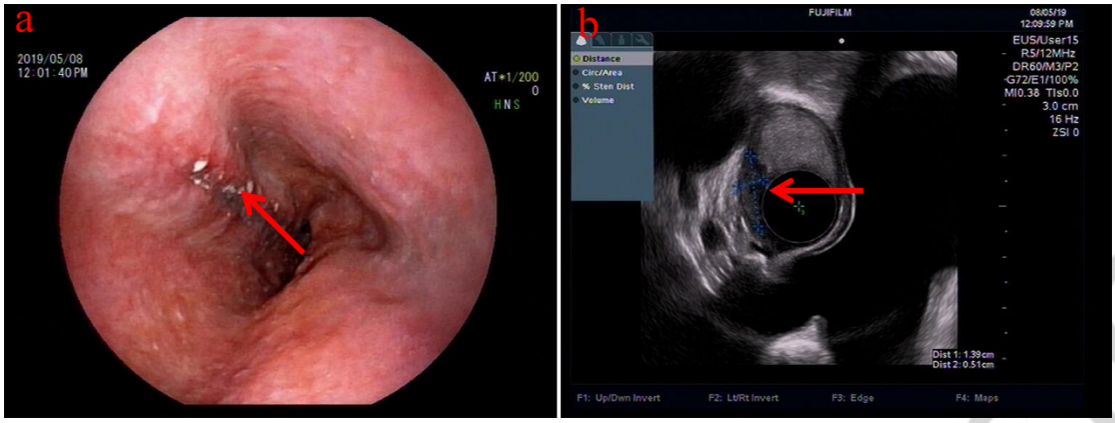

Fig. 1. A. Esophageal lesions located 20 cm from the incisors down to the gastric cardia. B. Submucosal hematoma.