Cricopharyngeal achalasia is a rarely reported [1] entity traditionally treated by surgery [2]. The video shows two cases referred to our unit for cricopharyngeal peroral endoscopic myotomy (C-POEM).

The first case was a 40-year-old woman with a 2-year history of cervical dysphagia requiring enteral feeding. Previous gastroscopy, barium transit, and high resolution manometry (HRM) were compatible with cricopharyngeal achalasia. A neck ultrasound and computed tomography (CT) without intravenous contrast supported the diagnosis. During the endoscopy for C-POEM, an upper compression that flattened with the endoscope and presented a beat was observed. An urgent angio-CT diagnosed the patient with lusoria dysphagia. Therefore, no endoscopic treatment was performed and the patient was referred for vascular bypass surgery.

The second case was an 83-year-old man with upper dysphagia and laryngeal microaspirations. Barium transit showed an upper posterior imprint (< Video 1 >) and HRM was compatible with cricopharyngeal achalasia. At gastroscopy, it was not possible to pass the upper esophageal sphincter. A CT scan with contrast ruled out extrinsic compressions. The patient was reluctant to undergo therapeutic maneuvers and accepted a treatment with botulinum toxin, which subsequently worsened the symptoms. Videoradiology and a new manometry reaffirmed the diagnosis of cricopharyngeal achalasia.

**Fig. 1** Cricopharyngeal bar.

**Fig. 2** Myotomy of the cricopharyngeal bar. **a** Exposed cricopharyngeal bar. **b** Complete cricopharyngeal bar myotomy. **c** Disappearance of the bar from the esophageal lumen after myotomy.
Finally, the patient agreed to undergo C-POEM. After initial tunneling without cap owing to the limited space, a myotomy of the cricopharyngeal bar (▶ Fig. 1) was performed with subsequent closure of the mucosotomy with clips (▶ Fig. 2). The patient experienced immediate symptomatic improvement that was confirmed by barium transit (▶ Fig. 3), and remained asymptomatic after 5 months. Cricopharyngeal achalasia without Zenker’s diverticulum requires careful diagnosis to exclude other causes of upper dysphagia. Video 1: Cricopharyngeal peroral endoscopic myotomy (C-POEM) is a feasible treatment for cricopharyngeal achalasia without associated Zenker’s diverticulum, although it requires an adequate diagnosis and exclusion of other causes of upper dysphagia. without a cap at the beginning of the procedure led to successful completion of the myotomy.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Eduardo Albéniz 1, 2, 8, 9, Fermín Estremera-Arevalo 1, Pedro J. Rosón 2, Francisco Fernandez Cano 2, María L. Heredia 1, Sauid Ishaq 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, Juan J. Vila 1, 6
1 Endoscopy Unit, Gastroenterology Department, Complejo Hospitalario de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain
2 Navarrabiomed Biomedical Research Center, Public University of Navarre, Navarre Institute for Health Research, Pamplona, Spain
3 Gastroenterology Endoscopy Unit, Hospital Quirónsalud Málaga, Málaga, Spain
4 Digestive System and Endoscopy Unit, Hospital Quirónsalud Málaga, Málaga, Spain
5 Gastroenterology Department, Mateu Orfila General Hospital, Mahon, Spain
6 Health and Science, Birmingham City University, Birmingham, United Kingdom
7 University of Birmingham, Russells Hall Hospital, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Corresponding author

Eduardo Albéniz, MD, PhD
Endoscopy Unit, Gastroenterology Department, Complejo Hospitalario de Navarra, Irurraldea 3, 31008, Navarra, Spain edualbeniz@hotmail.com

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