Acute variceal bleeding is a life-threatening event. Endoscopic band ligation is currently the recommended treatment [1]; however, in the case of reduced variceal volume, injection therapy with polidocanol or Histoacryl may be more appropriate. If both endoscopic options fail, placement of a Sengstaken–Blakemore tube should be considered [2], although other endoscopic therapies can be used [3]. A 54-year-old man with a known history of compensated alcoholic cirrhosis presented in the emergency room with acute hematemesis. The vital signs were stable and laboratory workup showed mild anemia, thrombocytopenia. Upper endoscopy and laboratory showed mild anemia. The vital signs were stable.

The use of a Sengstaken–Blakemore tube is increasingly rare, mostly because of the high incidence of complications, such as aspiration pneumonia, airway obstruction, pressure necrosis of the mucosa, esophageal rupture, and cardiac infow obstruction [4–6]. To our knowledge this is the first video showing the extraction of a Sengstaken–Blakemore tube that had transected probably because of a manufacturing defect. To prevent this situation a careful assessment of the tube must be made before placement. Besides the very successful resolution using a standard endoscopic extraction procedure, we emphasize the rarity of the video images of this unusual situation.

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Corresponding author
Bruno M. Gonçalves, MD
Serviço de Gastroenterologia
Hospital de Braga
Sete Fontes – São Victor
4710-243 Braga
Portugal
Fax: +351-25-3027999
brunommgoncalves@gmail.com

Sengstaken–Blakemore tube: an unusual complication

Fig. 1 Transected Sengstaken–Blakemore tube compared with a complete tube (upper tube).

Video 1

Extraction of a transected Sengstaken–Blakemore tube. A deflated tube was still in place and it was removed with a snare.

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