Sengstaken–Blakemore tube: an unusual complication

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 and thrombocytopenia. Upper endoscopy revealed a peptic esophagitis with aspiration pneumonia, airway obstruction, pressure necrosis of the mucosa, esophageal rupture, and cardiac inflow 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 should 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.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CPL_1AH_2AC

Competing interests: None

References

1 Villamova C, Piqueras M, Aracil C et al. A randomized controlled trial comparing ligation and sclerotherapy as emergency endoscopic treatment added to somatostatin in acute variceal bleeding. J Hepatol 2006; 45: 560–567
3 Holster IL, Kuipers EJ, van Baaren HR et al. Self-expandable metal stents as definitive treatment for esophageal variceal bleeding. Endoscopy 2013; 45: 485–488

Bibliography

DOI http://dx.doi.org/ 10.1055/s-0033-1358924
Endoscopy 2013; 45: E434
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author

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