Incarcerated giant hiatal hernia

An 89-year-old man with valvular heart disease and third-degree atrioventricular block with a permanent pacemaker presented with a 1-day history of nausea, coffee ground emesis, and dyspnea. Physical examination revealed hyperthermia of 37.8 °C, oxygen saturation measured by pulse oximetry of 94 %, and hemodynamic stability. Laboratory tests showed a hemoglobin level of 13.9 g/dL, leucocytosis of 13 640/mm³ with neutrophilia, and a C-reactive protein level of 3.8 mg/L. A chest radiograph showed a giant hiatal hernia with migration of the entire stomach with an air-fluid level in an 89-year-old man with valvular heart disease and third-degree atrioventricular block.

A chest radiograph showing a giant hiatal hernia with an air-fluid level in an 89-year-old man with valvular heart disease and third-degree atrioventricular block.

Fig. 1 Chest radiograph showing a giant hiatal hernia with an air-fluid level in an 89-year-old man with valvular heart disease and third-degree atrioventricular block.

Endoscopic image of the proximal stomach showing a large longitudinal ulcer, a congestive and dark-red surrounding mucosa suggesting gastric ischemia and gastric stasis.

Fig. 2 Endoscopic image of the proximal stomach showing a large longitudinal ulcer, a congestive and dark-red surrounding mucosa suggesting gastric ischemia and gastric stasis.

Chest radiograph showing a giant hiatal hernia with an air-fluid level in an 89-year-old man with valvular heart disease and third-degree atrioventricular block.

Giant hiatal hernia represents 5 – 10 % of all hiatal hernias and includes at least 30 % of the stomach in the chest [1, 2]. Most frequently, a giant hiatal hernia is a mixed hernia composed of a sliding and a paraesophageal component [2]. Patients generally present with pain, heartburn, regurgitation, dysphagia, cough, dyspnea, vomiting, and anemia [2, 3]. The incidence of incarceration and strangulation is low [2]. Usually, in symptomatic patients, the definitive management is surgical repair [4]. Furthermore, owing to the risk of hemorrhage, strangulation, volvulus, and perforation in paraesophageal and mixed hernias, elective repair is recommended [5].

Giant hiatal hernia with incarceration and signs of ischemia that reversed spontaneously after reduction of the hernia sac. A laparoscopic hernia repair was performed followed by a fundoplication.

Fig. 3 Laparoscopic view revealing a large diaphragmatic hiatus with total gastric herniation.

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Fig. 3 Laparoscopic view revealing a large diaphragmatic hiatus with total gastric herniation.

Laparoscopic view showing the proximal stomach with a dark-red hue contrasting with the distal stomach with a normal pink color.

Fig. 4 Laparoscopic view showing the proximal stomach with a dark-red hue contrasting with the distal stomach with a normal pink color.

Competing interests: None

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