Esophageal Lichen Planus

Lichen Planus (LP) is a chronic skin and mucosal disease occurring all over the world, although only a few cases of LP mucosal lesions of the esophagus have been reported (1). A case of LP affecting the mucosa of the esophagus is described here.

A 65-year-old woman was admitted to our Department of Dermatology with single papules on the skin and extensive LP lesions of the oral mucosa. The patient had complained of xerostomia, difficult and painful swallowing, and frequent choking, for 18 months. A radiological examination of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum showed no pathological changes. Endoscopy of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum revealed milk-white, reticulated, or ring-shaped changes along the entire supracardial esophagus. At 15 cm, distinct striations caused by the whitish masses were visible. At 20 cm, there was one solid, round, leuko-
plakia-like focus (Figure 2). The cardia was normal, and no
changes were found in the stomach or duodenum. The macroscopic
picture of the esophagus showed the changes typical of LP, and this
was confirmed by the histopathological examination (Figure 2).
The presence of dysplastic cells suggests a need for further obser-
vation and histopathological examination, as there are reports on
the transformation of the erosive type of LP into spinocellular
carcinoma (2).

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Figure 2: The histopathological examination of the esophageal mucosa shows ulceration of the esophageal mucosa and
the presence of necrotic masses, with extensive solid cellular
infiltration composed of lymphocytes, histiocytes, and plas-
matic cells. Platyspithelial cells with some dysplastic features
are visible in the upper part of the infiltration.