

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 strictures caused by the whitish masses were visible. At 20 cm, there was one solid, round, leuko-

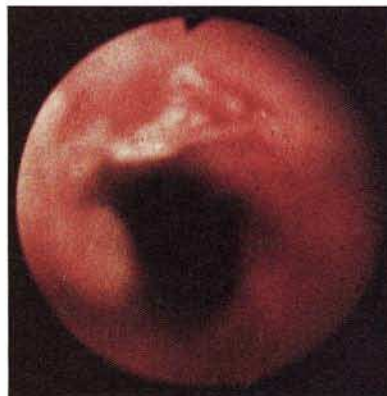


Figure 1: Endoscopic view of the esophagus, showing a stenosis at 15 cm with milk-white, irregular eruptions, clearly separate, and protruding into the esophageal lumen.

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 observation and histopathological examination, as there are reports on the transformation of the erosive type of LP into spinocellular carcinoma (2).

K. Celinski¹, D. Krasowska², J. Pokora¹, B. Lecewicz-Torun²

¹Department of Gastroenterology and ²Department of Dermatology, Medical School, University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland

References

1. Holder PD, Wong WL, Pemberton J et al.: Diagnosis and treatment of an oesophageal stricture due to lichen planus. *Br J Radiol* 1992; 659: 451–452.
2. Eisen DM, Ellis CN, Duell EA et al.: Effect of topical cyclosporine rinse on oral lichen planus. *N Engl J Med* 1990; 323: 290–294.

Corresponding Author

K. Celinski, M.D., Department of Gastroenterology, ul. Jaczewskiego 8, 20-090 Lublin, Poland

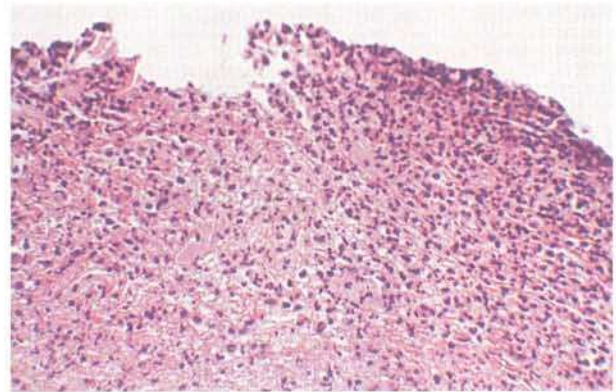


Figure 2: The histopathological examination of the esophageal mucosa shows ulceration of the esophageal mucosa and the presence of necrotic masses, with extensive solid cellular infiltration composed of lymphocytes, histiocytes, and plasmatic cells. Platyepithelial cells with some dysplastic features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