Enteryx polymer migration to lymph nodes and beyond

A 39-year-old white man presented with a 2-year history of intermittent, sharp, left-sided chest pain. Two years before, the patient had had an injection of nonresorbable co-polymer (Enteryx; Boston Scientific Corp., Natick, Massachusetts, USA) into the lower esophageal sphincter as a treatment for refractory gastroesophageal reflux disease, and had tolerated the procedure satisfactorily except for mild postprocedural chest pain.

Concerned about an Enteryx-related complication, we ordered a chest radiograph, upper endoscopy, an upper gastrointestinal series, pH-metry and manometry, which were all normal. As we expected, a noncontrast computed tomographic scan of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis revealed polymer around the gastroesophageal junction (Fig. 1). Unexpectedly, hyperdense material was also seen in the subcarinal region (Fig. 2) and the right hilum (Fig. 3), consistent with polymer migration. In addition, polymer seemed to have migrated to the liver (see Fig. 1), the spleen, and the wall of the small intestine (Fig. 4).

The United States’ Food and Drug Administration recalled Enteryx as a result of its association with significant complications, including esophageal abscesses, stenosis, polymer migration, and death [1–4]. Although our patient has evidence of polymer migration to several anatomical sites, this is unlikely to be responsible for his current symptoms. This migration probably occurred at the time of his procedure as a result of inadvertant transmural injection of polymer into blood vessels or lymphatics. The best explanation of our patient’s current symptoms is a hypersensitive or irritable esophagus secondary to his Enteryx procedure.

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G. R. Veerappan1, J. M. Koff1, M. T. Smith1

1 Gastroenterology Service, Department of Medicine, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, District of Columbia, USA
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Corresponding author
G. R. Veerappan, MD
Gastroenterology Service
Department of Medicine
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue
Washington 20307
District of Columbia
USA
Fax: +1-202-782-4416
ganesh.veerappan@amedd.army.mil

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