

## Dysphagia Caused by an Arteriovenous Malformation in the Esophagus: a Curious Cause of a Common Complaint

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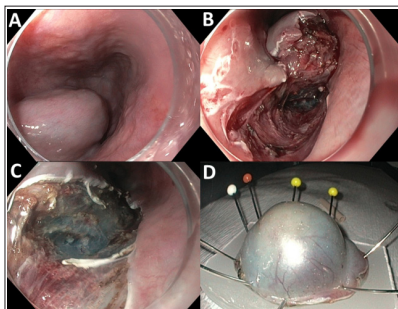
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A 48 year old man, with a history of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, with dysphagia and paroxysmal retrosternal pain was referred to our hospital for endoscopic submucosal dissection of a submucosal lesion in the esophagus of unknown origin. During upper endoscopy a submucosal, broad pedunculated lesion of 2 by 2 cm was seen with normal overlying mucosal tissue and a slight blue discoloration, obstructing half of the esophageal lumen (figure 1). Our differential diagnosis included leiomyoma, gastro-intestinal stromal tumor, leiomyosarcoma, schwannoma, lymphangioma, hemangioma, fibrovascular lesion, and duplication cyst. Endoscopic ultrasound on the level of the aortic arch showed a hypo echoic, inhomogeneous lesion arising from the submucosa with no connection with the muscularis propria. A successful en-bloc endoscopic submucosal dissection was performed (figure 1). Histopathological analysis revealed a benign vascular lesion in the submucosa composed of an admixture of closely associated arteries and veins. Some of the vessels were cystically dilated and showed a thrombus intraluminal (figure 2). The patient's symptoms improved after removal of the submucosal lesion and the patient was able to resume normal intake after one day.

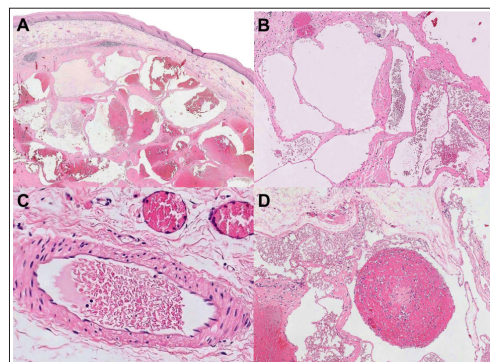
### Diagnosis

Esophageal arteriovenous malformation causing obstruction



**Figure 1:** A) Endoscopic image of the lesion in the esophagus. B)

Image during the endoscopic submucosal dissection. C) Endoscopic image after endoscopic submucosal dissection of the lesion. D) Image of the lesion pinned on paraffin after en-bloc endoscopic submucosal dissection.



**Figure 2:** Histopathological evaluation of the resected specimen. Histological features of arteriovenous malformation of the esophagus (Hematoxylin and Eosin staining). A) Vascular lesion in the submucosa (magnification 5x). B-C) At higher magnification there are variably dilated blood vessels consisting of both arteries and veins with abnormal connections (magnification 20x-40x). D) Focal thrombus in a large vein (magnification 20x).

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