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Isolated oesophageal Crohn's disease mimicking oesophageal carcinoma treated by Merendino procedure

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Abstract

Oesophageal involvement is a very rare presentation of Crohn's disease. It can occur as an isolated mass causing dysphagia and can be mistaken for malignancy. Here, we report a case of a 75-year-old woman presenting with dysphagia and weight loss. Gastroscopy showed an ulcerating mass, and her barium swallow showed a bird beak appearance at the level of the gastro-oesophageal junction (GEJ). Repetitive biopsies were inconclusive. Fluorodeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography showed high glucose uptake (standardised uptake value: 10.2) at the level of the GEJ. Endoscopic ultrasound classified the lesion as uT3N1. Step-by-step surgical exploration revealed an oesophageal mass. A frozen section examination showed an absence of malignancy and the presence of inflammatory tissue. A partial oesophagogastrostomy was performed, and reconstruction was achieved by a Merendino procedure. Definitive histopathological examination revealed isolated oesophageal Crohn's disease.

Keywords: Crohn's disease; Dysphagia; FDG-PET scan; Isolated involvement; Merendino procedure; Oesophagus.

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