LONG TERM PEG TUBE FRACTURE: ENDOSCOPIC RETRIEVAL OF BROKEN INNER BOLSTER

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BACKGROUND

- Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) is a safe method of long-term enteral nutrition.[1]
- PEG removal should be delayed until track matures (4-6 weeks post placement).[2]
- Some recommend replacement of PEG every 8 months to prevent local infection.[3]

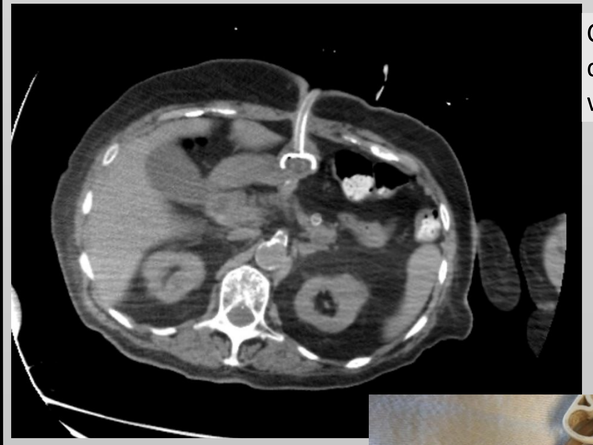
AIM

Report the endoscopic retrieval of a broken inner bolster of a fractured PEG tube in patient with long term PEG tube in place

CASE DETAILS

An 89-year-old female with PMH of DM, COPD, HTN, dementia and dysphagia status post PEG tube placement 2 years previously. Patient presented with erythema at the PEG site. Computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen showed a PEG tube with inner bolster within the stomach with no sign of abscess. An attempt to remove the PEG tube by traction technique at bedside was made. The tubing broke away from the inner bolster causing the bolster to be retained in the stomach. At this point a second 18Fr balloon gastrostomy tube was placed immediately through the previous track. An urgent endoscopy was performed for bolster retrieval, to avoid passage of the bolster through the pylorus.

PEG TUBE IMAGING AND REMOVAL



CT image depicting bolster within stomach

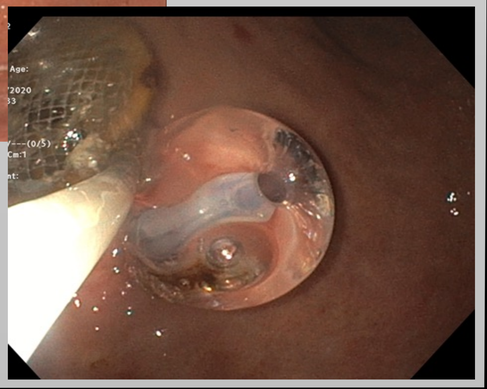


Broken PEG tube, with Bolster broken away

ENDOSCOPY AND RETREIVAL



An uneventful endoscopy and retrieval of the bolster in bag



Post-procedure, the patient was comfortable and was able to tolerate tube feeds, with no complications.

CONCLUSIONS

- Periodic PEG tube replacement may be warranted not only to prevent infection, but also to reduce risk of fracture at the time of removal.
- Consideration for endoscopy for retrieval of bolster in already degraded tubes.

References:

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3. Lachter J, Dolinsky R, Peretz D, Reshef R. Long-Term Use Of Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomies: A Survey Of Duration Of Use And Level Of Maintenance. The Internet Journal of Gastroenterology. 2005 Volume 4 Number 2.

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SAGES 2021, August 31-September 3, 2021, Las Vegas