Fracture of Gastric Band Tubing: Rare Late Complication

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INTRODUCTION

Over 150 million Americans suffer with obesity. Obesity and its associated cardiovascular and metabolic comorbidities constitute 18% of all US healthcare expenditures.[1] Bariatric surgery is the most effective treatment for obesity. Sleeve gastrectomy (SG), and Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) surgery comprise the majority of currently performed weight loss procedures. Although now rarely performed, the contemporary surgeon should be familiar with the complications arising from Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Band (LABG).[2]

CASE STUDY

A 59-year-old female presented 15 years after LAGB with 2 months of right lower quadrant abdominal pain. Her EWL% was 59% with a current BMI of 24.94. Her LAGB was performed in 2007, with two adjustments in 2009 and 2011. CT images showed disconnected tubing. We had a thorough discussion with the patient, and she desired to have the LAGB removed without any revisional surgeries. She underwent laparoscopic removal of the band. The tubing was tangled around adhesions, and the fractured tip of the tubing was adherent to the right iliac vessels. The device was removed, and the patient tolerated the procedure well. She was discharged on POD1.

FIGURES

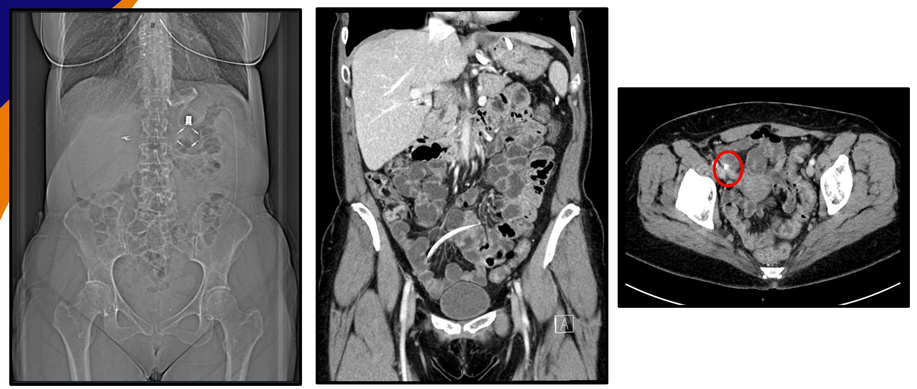


Figure 1. CT scan images showing the free floating gastric band tubing

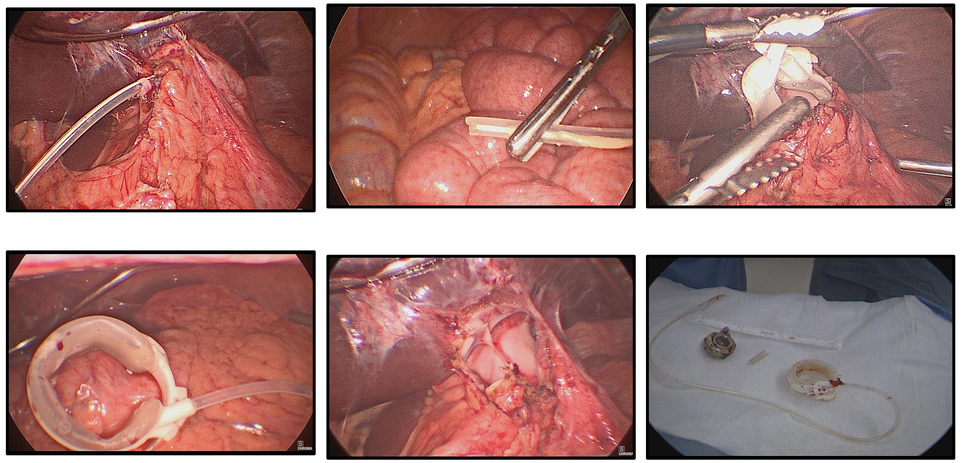


Figure 2. Laparoscopic gastric band removal showing the fractured gastric band tubing

DISCUSSION

- In 2011 LAGB constituted 36.7% of bariatric procedures due to adjustability and reversibility.[2]
- Poor weight loss and long-term complications of the LAGB led to the procedure largely being abandoned in modern bariatric practices.[3-8]
- The two major devices were LAP-BAND, and Swedish Adjust-able Gastric Band (REALIZE)
- Complications: gastric slippage/prolapse, port/tubing issues, erosion, weight loss failure, pouch dilation, GERD and esophageal injuries
- Weight loss leading to mechanical stress on LAGB tubing could lead to fracture in short term. Fracture 15 years after installment is a rare event.[6,7]
- Surgical options: SG or RYGB, one-stage or two-stage; or other bariatric procedures.[9-12]

CONCLUSION

- LAGB complications can be divided to early and late complications
- Fracture of LABG tubing is a rare complication that may result in adverse sequalae
- Contemporary surgeons should be familiar with band removal and revision options

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