

INTRODUCTION

Anastomotic leaks are one of the most common complications after esophagectomy. Their incidence is higher in patients with malignancy especially who underwent neoadjuvant therapy.

AIM OF THE STUDY

The objective of our study was to determine the incidence and management of postoperative leaks following esophagectomy.

METHODS

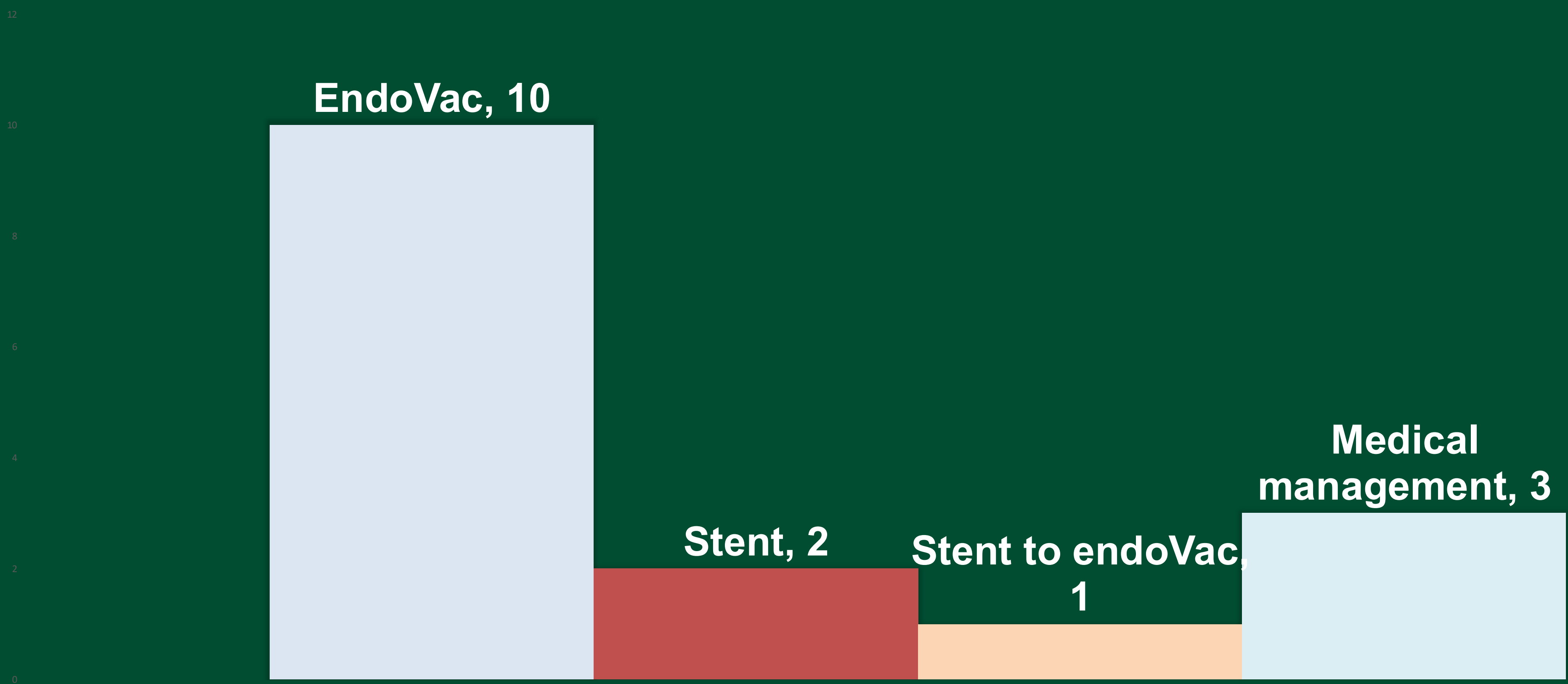
We conducted a retrospective chart review from January 2020 to January 2025 after approval from Institutional IRB.

We included all patients > 18 years of age who underwent esophagectomy and excluded patients < 18 years and who did not develop postoperative leak.

Incidence and management of postoperative leaks after esophagectomy

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EndoVAC therapy offers an effective therapy in the management of post esophagectomy leaks when identified and treated immediately.



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RESULTS:

Among the cohort of 43 patients who underwent esophagectomy, 16 developed postoperative leaks (37%).

Among the 16 patients, 13 (81.25%) patients experienced partial dehiscence, one had total anastomotic dehiscence, and two had minor leaks.

The most common complication following endoVAC therapy was stricture formation, observed in 4 (40%) patients who subsequently required serial dilations. Mortality was noted in one patient (6.25%).

CONCLUSION

Postoperative leaks are one of the most common complications after esophagectomy. Malignancy and neoadjuvant therapy appears to increase the incidence of postoperative leak.

EndoVAC therapy offers an effective therapy in the management of postesophagectomy leaks when identified and treated immediately.