Thoracic Aorto-Esophageal Fistula Following Endovascular Aneurysm Repair

Kazuhiro Ota, Yoshimasa Hirata, Takeshi Higashino and Kazuhide Higuchi

Key words: thoracic aortic aneurysm, stent graft, hematemesis, aorto-esophageal fistula

An 84-year-old woman who underwent an endovascular aneurysm repair for a thoracic aortic aneurysm six months previously presented with hematemesis. Emergency upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed a nonspecific esophageal ulcer (10 mm in diameter, base covered with thrombi) at a site 20 cm from the incisors (Picture 1). Hemostasis was not performed because there was no active bleeding during the endoscopic examination. Enhanced computed tomography after endoscopy revealed emphysema around the thoracic aorta (Picture 2, red arrows). The esophageal lumen was seen to be connected to the thoracic aorta through a fistula. We considered that this fistula may have been formed by the persistent inflammation caused by a stent graft that had been inserted into the thoracic aorta. Surgery was considered to be the only viable treatment; however, the patient refused to undergo surgery.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).