Acute Massive Gastric Dilatation in a Patient with an Eating Disorder

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A 33-year-old woman with an eating disorder and depression was admitted after ingesting large amounts of water. She presented with abdominal distension and tenderness. Abdominal computed tomography (CT) revealed massive gastric distension (Picture 1). A nasogastric tube was inserted for drainage, and 6,000 mL of fluid was aspirated from the stomach. Three days after gastric decompression, repeat abdominal CT was performed because of persistent...
abdominal pain. CT showed improvement of the gastric distension and thickened gastric wall (Picture 2). Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed ischemia with areas of gastric mucosal necrosis in the fundus and along the greater curvature (Picture 3, 4). Her abdominal symptoms improved markedly with continued gastric decompression and proton pump inhibitor therapy without gastric surgery. When characteristic findings of massive gastric dilation are noted on CT, with extensive necrotic ulceration on endoscopy, acute gastric dilation should be considered, especially in patients with an eating disorder (1).

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Reference


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