

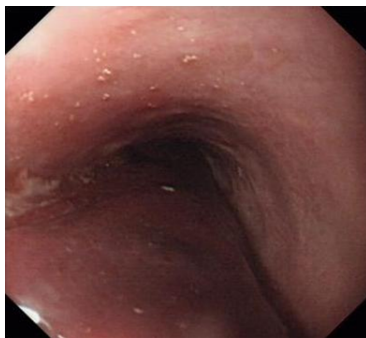
# An unusual endoscopic image of a submucosal esophageal hematoma

Lei Shi\*, and Fu Jian Liu

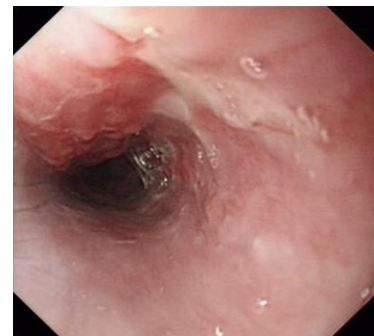
Department of Gastroenterology, The Eighth Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China

A 44-year-old man was referred to our department with hematemesis after swallowing areca nut for the past 2 days. No underlying diseases were found in this patient. Laboratory results revealed an elevated C-reactive protein level (13.85 mg/dl). Otherwise his blood coagulates, liver and kidney function were normal. Endoscopy revealed an extensive longitudinal submucosal esophageal hematoma, extending from 20 cm past the incisors to the gastroesophageal junction. The lumen of the esophagus was moderately congested. No active bleeding or foreign body was seen (Figure 1). After 7 days of fasting and conservative treatment, endoscopic follow-up revealed that the hematoma had completely resolved and a shallow ulcer at the original lesion (Figure 2).

Esophageal hematoma is a very rare phenomenon in clinical practice. Previous reports regarding the causes of esophageal hematoma have referred mainly to complications of endoscopy [1]; other reported cases were caused by hard food boluses and coagulopathy, and trauma, drugs or idiopathic [2,3]. Symptoms of esophageal hematoma are hematemesis, epigastric pain, heartburn, and odynophagia. Differential diagnosis includes aorto-esophageal fistula, esophageal cancer, acute myocardial infarction, esophageal perforation and aortic dissection.



**Figure 1.** Endoscopy revealed an extensive longitudinal submucosal esophageal hematoma, extending from 20 cm past the incisors to the gastroesophageal junction.



**Figure 2.** Endoscopic follow-up revealed that the hematoma had completely resolved and a shallow ulcer at the original lesion.

The management of esophageal intramural hematomas depends on the clinical situation. In most studies, the patients respond well to conservative treatment. However, surgical intervention is required when severe bleeding occurs. We present these findings to raise awareness of the imaging features of this phenomenon. A better understanding of the risk factors involved may also help to avoid misdiagnosis as well as inappropriate treatment of this condition.

## References

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**Correspondence to:** Dr. Lei Shi, Department of Gastroenterology The Eighth Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region China; Fax: +86-775-4200028; E-mail: ycyment@hotmail.com

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