CASE SNIPPETS

Association of Digital Clubbing with Corrosive Stricture of Esophagus

U C GHOSHAL, DEEPAK K AGARWAL, G CHOUDHURI

Department of Gastroenterology, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Raebareli Road, Lucknow 226 014

Abstract

We report a young woman who developed digital clubbing following corrosive esophageal injury. The clubbing regressed with effective dilatation of the esophageal stricture.

Indian J Gastroenterol 1995; 14 (3): 112.

Key words: Esophageal diseases; ostearthropathy, secondary hypertrophic.

Clubbing of the fingers and toes is associated with several systemic diseases. Esophageal diseases known to be associated with digital clubbing include esophageal carcinoma, and thoracic pseudo-tumor due to esophageal dilation. We report a patient with corrosive esophageal stricture associated with digital clubbing.

Fig. 1: Barium swallow showing tight stricture in middle third of esophagus.

Fig. 2: The finger of the patient in profile. Abnormal curvature of the nail is noted. A wide hypsychistral angle (eba) is shown (20°). The ratio of the distal phalangeal depth (DPD) to the interphalangeal depth (IPD) is 1.

A 21-year-old housewife presented with dysphagia which started two months after ingestion of corrosive substance with suicidal intent one year ago. Barium swallow revealed a stricture in the mid-esophagus (Fig 1). Examination revealed mild pallor and grade 3 clubbing of all digits (Fig 2). She had first noted aching appearance of her fingers around the time she developed difficulty in swallowing; the clubbing had progressively increased over the last eight months. There was no family history of clubbing. Clinical and radiologic examination of the chest was normal. Endoscopic examination of the esophagus revealed a tight stricture in the mid-third which was dilated over several sessions using Savary–Gilliard dilators. The clubbing regressed gradually with relief of dysphagia.

Development of clubbing appears to be related to esophageal stricture in this case. Our report is perhaps the first one describing such an association and regression of clubbing following effective esophageal dilatation.

References