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Reflux: The Impact on our Patients and Evidence Based Treatments Part 2

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Learning Outcomes

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify the tests available to diagnose reflux
- Describe the impact of medications and diet for treating reflux.
- Identify the surgical and endoscopic treatments that have been found to have positive outcomes on reflux if pharmacology is not providing benefits for the patient.

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Diagnosis, testing for reflux
- Medications and diet to manage reflux
- Surgical and endoscopic treatments for reflux and outcomes

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Patient Interview

- Symptoms?
 - Frequency
 - Duration
- If pt. says he has asthma, particularly adult onset asthma, ask
 - more trouble getting air in or out?
- More trouble getting air in, no asthma –
 - symptoms likely reactive airway disease 2° to LPR
 - pH testing may identify NERD – abnormal acid exposure w/out visible lesions in distal esophagus (9)
- **Reflux Symptom Index (RSI)**
 - 9 item symptom severity scale completed by pt.
 - validated reflux outcomes instrument
 - 0=no problem/5=severe problem
- **Reflux Finding Score** – most reliable clinical dx
 - Grade laryngeal findings of LPR
 - mild, moderate, severe, obstructing – vocal fold edema, tiger stripe, postcricoid edema etc.
 - visual laryngoscopy

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REFLUX

- Symptoms include:
 - Chest pain
 - **Hiccups**
 - Tongue pain
 - Halitosis
 - Odynophagia (painful swallow)
 - Hoarseness
 - Subglottic stenosis
 - Aspiration
 - Vocal fold granulomas
- Chronic cough/wheeze
- Absence of cough – ***airway numb to aspiration***
- Failure to thrive
- Sinusitis
- Apnea & cyanosis
- Colic irritability
- **Pneumonia – especially recurrent**

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LPR Symptoms ⁽⁹⁾

- Regurgitation
- Chest pain
- SOB
- Choking
- Hoarseness
- Vocal fatigue
- Chronic throat clearing
- Excessive throat mucus
- Postnasal drip
- Chronic cough
- Dysphagia
- Difficulty swallowing
- Difficulty breathing
- Lump in throat sensation
- Food sticking
- Airway obstruction
- Wheezing

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Conditions w LPR ⁽⁹⁾

- Dental erosions/cavities
- Esophageal spasms
- Esophageal stricture
- Esophageal cancer
- Reflux laryngitis
- Laryngeal cancer
- Endotracheal intubation injury
- Contact ulcers and granulomas
- Sudden infant death syndrome
- Sinusitis and allergic symptoms
- Sleep apnea
- Posterior glottis stenosis
- Arytenoid fixation
- Paroxysmal laryngospasm
- Globus pharyngeus
- Laryngomalacia
- Vocal cord dysfunction
- Paradoxical vocal fold movement
- Nodules and polyps
- Laryngospasm
- Asthma

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LPR? ⁽⁹⁾

- MOST accurate diagnostic reflux test
 - combination of pharyngeal/ues/esophageal manometry and ambulatory 24-hr dual pH probe (simultaneous pharyngeal and esophageal) monitoring.
- 2nd choice - Impedance monitoring
 - good supplement to pH testing
 - may identify injurious nonacid reflux

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Why Test?

Is patient complaint ***REALLY*** due to reflux?

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- Three main tests for Reflux
 - Esophageal pH monitoring
 - most definitive study for dx of GERD
 - measures acid reflux into lower esophagus.
 - Endoscopy
 - Aggressive/frequent use represents accepted status quo,
 - 80% w GERD will have normal EGD (1)
 - 20% of cases dx of GERD can be made on endoscopy.
 - Manometry

Diagnostic Tests

- Barium Swallow
 - **NOT a test for GERD.**
- Primus pH Probe
- Salivary Pepsin Test
- PPI Test
 - Prescribe PPI's based on pt. complaints
 - If complaints disappear, continue w PPI

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Esophageal pH Monitoring

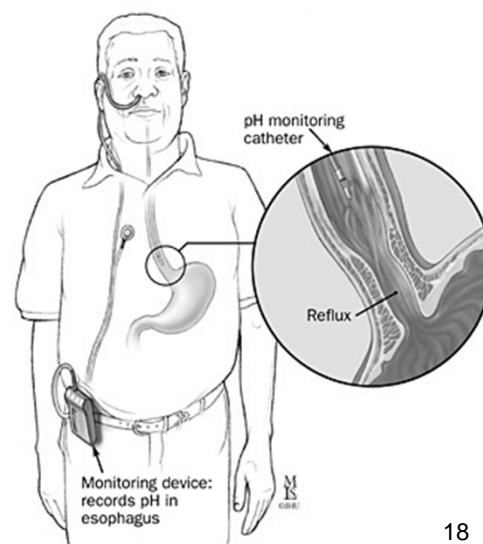
Three techniques:

- Single sensor pH monitoring w pH catheter
 - 24 hrs.
 - Measure distal esophageal pH, sensor placed 5 cm above upper border of LES
- Dual sensor pH monitoring w pH catheter
 - 24 hrs.
 - Measure proximal esophageal acid exposure, second sensor placed 1-5 below lower border of UES
- Wireless pH monitoring w Bravo pH capsule or OMOM pH monitoring capsule
 - 48 hours for Bravo capsule or more (96 hours) for OMOM capsule.
 - Attached to esophageal lining with clip.

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Esophageal pH Monitoring

- Most pts never have this diagnostic test
 - even though they will likely take meds for life
- Long term PPIs have potential for significant side effects
- Research shows approx. **30% taking PPIs don't have GERD**, and are taking meds unnecessarily
- Test can definitively establish if GERD is/is not present (1)



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www.hopkinsmedicine.org

Esophageal pH Monitoring

- Pt. must stop acid-suppressive medications prior to test.
 - PPIs discontinued for 1 wk.
 - Over the counter acid reducers (Zantac, Pepcid or Tagamet) or topical antacids (Tums or Mylanta) may be used
- Disadvantage
- Nasal catheter often inhibits pts. usual diet and daily routine.
 - If pt. has cardiac pacemaker, catheter method used (as opposed to telemetry capsule) ⁽¹⁾

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Esophageal pH Monitoring

- Thin plastic catheter 1/16th inch diameter passed through nostril, into esophagus
- Sensor tip sensitive to acid
- Catheter protrudes from nose - connects to recorder (size of cell phone) to record each reflux event
- Probe plugged into monitor on belt or over shoulder
- 24 hrs. test
- Less data than capsule method
- Sensor placed in upper esophagus or pharynx to record LPR
- Touch button on monitor to record
 - Symptoms
 - Times you eat, lie down
- Data downloaded for analysis

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Bravo and OMOM pH capsule

- Placed either transnasally, or following endoscopy
- Transnasal placement
 - 5 cm above upper border of LES
- Endoscopic placement
 - 6 cm above gastroesophageal junction.
- Pt. sedated for EGD
- Can be placed without sedation
 - Allows immediate return to work
- Capsule contains acid sensing probe, battery, and transmitter.
- Probe monitors acid in esophagus and transmits info to recorder worn by pt. on belt.
- Transmits for two or three days, then battery dies.
- Five - seven days later, capsule falls off esophageal lining and passed in stool.

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Bravo and OMOM pH capsule

Advantages

- Absence of catheter connecting probe to recorder.
- Greater comfort without catheter in back of throat,
- More likely to go to work and do normal activities without feeling self-conscious

Disadvantages

- Cannot be used in pharynx or stomach



www.slgdocs.com

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Esophageal pH Monitoring

- Determines why PPI tx not working.
 - Medication not adequate?
 - Symptoms not due to reflux
- If done while pt. on reflux meds and shows abnormal amts. of reflux
 - Treatment inadequate and needs to be changed.
- Reflux within normal range
 - Symptoms not caused by reflux
 - Consider other problems
- Record primary symptoms
 - Press buttons on monitor to record
 - Record times you are eating, drinking anything except water, or lying down

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24 hr. pH Monitoring Study Results

(8)

- Pulmonary aspiration occurred w all patterns of reflux
 - Upright
 - Supine
 - Combined
- Dysphagia occurred w all patterns of reflux

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24 hr. pH Monitoring Study Results

(8)

- Supine and combined refluxers
 - Supine episodes of long duration
 - Inability to clear acid from distal esophagus during sleep when little swallowing occurs
 - Prolonged clearance time
 - Lower esophageal mucous membrane –
 - Prolonged contact w hydrochloric acid and activated pepsin
- Upright and combined refluxers
 - Episodes of long duration
 - Inability to clear acid from esophagus after upright reflux episode
 - Occurred during activities which caused changes in intra-abdominal pressure
 - Esophagus more rapidly cleared by swallowing than supine reflux episodes

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24 hr. pH Monitoring Study Results

(8)

- Supine refluxers
 - Inability to clear esophagus of acid
 - Predisposed to esophagitis
 - More esophagitis than upright refluxers
 - More episodes per hr. during day in upright position but cleared rapidly
- Both upright and supine refluxers
 - Severe esophagitis
 - Risk of developing strictures.

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24 hr. pH Monitoring Study Results

(8)

- Combined refluxers
 - More esophagitis than supine refluxers
 - Meat impaction 2° an esophageal stricture (only in combined refluxers)
 - 31% w some esophageal motor abnormality
- Upright refluxers
 - Grade I esophagitis only seen w upright
 - During activities that change intra-abdominal pressure
 - Cleared more rapidly w swallowing
 - Excessive aerophagia
 - Occur in 2 hr. period after meals
 - Difficulty emptying stomach after meals
 - Emptying plateaus within 1st 40 min. after meal for another 40 min. then rapidly empties

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24 hr. pH Monitoring Study Results

(8)

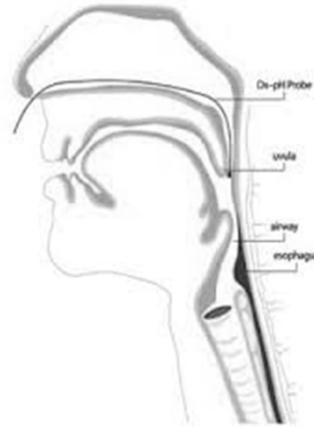
Anti-reflux procedures

- Stop reflux by correcting specific DES abnormalities associated w incompetency.
- Should occur earlier in treatment
- Skip prolonged medical management.

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Primus pH Probe (18)

- LPR takes gaseous form
 - difficult to measure
- Micro sensor at end of catheter.
- Probe placed posterior to uvula in oropharynx.
- Swallowing/speaking not impeded.
- Minimally invasive placement allow pts to carry on everyday activities
- Measurements sent to recorder
- 24 hr. study

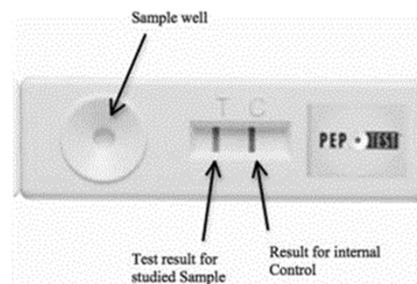


Cfpulmonary.com

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Salivary Pepsin Test (18)

- Noninvasive rapid pepsin lateral flow device (LFD) detects presence of pepsin in saliva
- Primary premise - salivary pepsin only present if pt. has reflux
- May confirm LPR



www.researchgate.net

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Endoscopy

- Flexible tube w light/video camera
- Tube passed through throat into esophagus
- Examine for esophagitis, strictures, Barrett's esophagus
- NOT usually done w mild symptoms
- Done if
 - Symptoms severe
 - Prolonged
 - Unresponsive to treatments, lifestyle changes, meds
- Perform pH study at same time w little risk
 - rarely utilized (2)

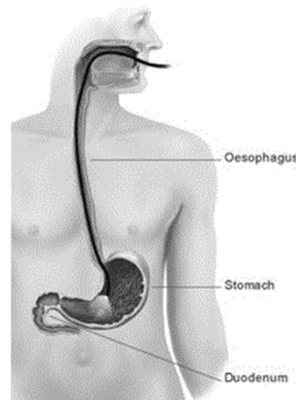


Figure 1
Upper GI endoscopy

www.parkside-hospital.co.uk

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Esophageal Manometry⁽³⁾

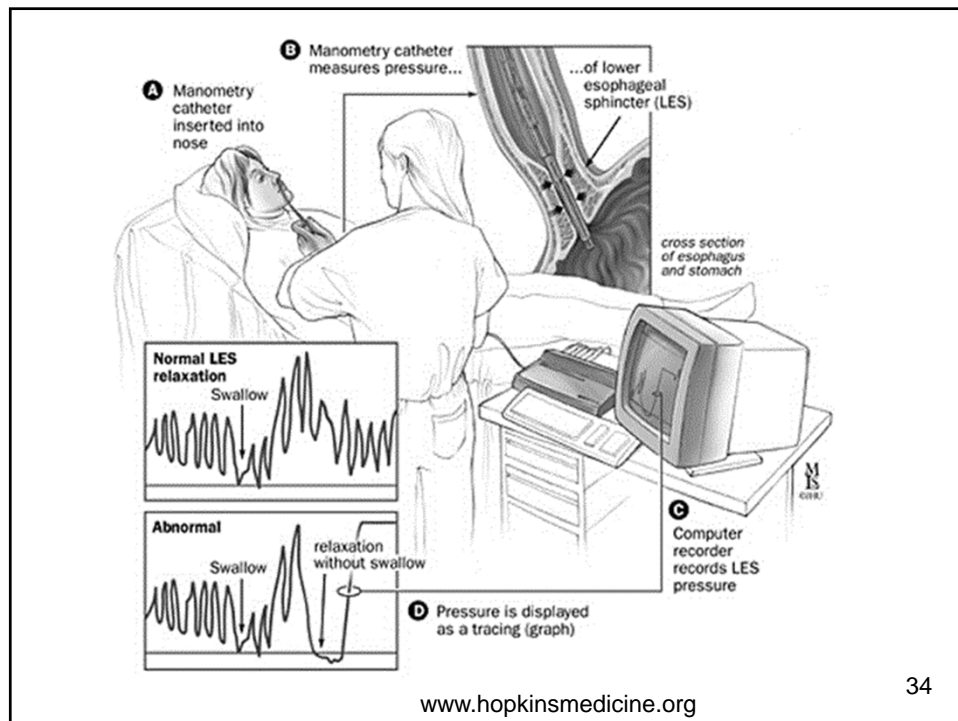
- Evaluate esophagus and LES function
- Not specific test for GERD
- May see changes consistent w GERD
- Discover specific esophageal contraction disorders that mimic GERD.
- Approx. 5% thought to have GERD have esophageal disorder uncovered w manometry.
- Many dx w GERD by previous pH testing have normal or close to normal manometry studies

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Esophageal Manometry⁽³⁾

- Esophagus must contract in sequential manner
- Top end contracts first, then middle, then bottom
- LES relaxes to allow food into stomach
- Peristalsis measured during manometry in terms of pressure
- Esophagus squeezes
 - generates pressure
- LES opens
 - pressure lowers from its resting state
- Pressure measurements also measure length of LES
 - can detect hiatus hernia

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Esophageal Manometry⁽³⁾

- 20 minutes test
- Tube w 36 separate pressure sensors passed through nose into stomach.
- 10 Wet Swallows W 20-30 Sec Interval Between (6)
- Pressure measurements processed and displayed

Profile LES

- Slow Withdrawal Of Catheter Through LES w .5 cm Increments
- Remain In Position For 3-5 Respiratory Cycles

Study Of Esophagus

- Response To Water Swallow
- Measures Esophageal Contractions
 - Amplitude
 - Duration
 - Velocity
 - Smooth And Striated Muscles
- Critical Measurements At 3 And 8 cm Above LES
- Most Motility Abnormalities Occur In Distal Esophagus And Smooth Muscles

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Barium Swallow⁽⁴⁾

- Upper GI series, or UGI
- Should use w endoscopy to define anatomy of stomach and esophagus.
- Eval large hiatus hernias, strictures, or esophageal narrowing
- Provides info on peristalsis and timely stomach emptying
- May suggest GERD, but should not be used to diagnose
- 20 minutes to complete


www.kaahe.org

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Barium Swallow
double contrast followed by low density

Double Contrast

Upright Portion Of BS

Swallow Effervescent Crystals &
Rapidly Gulp High Density Barium

- Upright Left Posterior Oblique Position
- Esophagus Normally Smooth In Appearance

Recumbent Right Side Down For
View Gastric Cardia And Fundus

Low Density

Prone Right Anterior Oblique

- Swallow low density barium
- Assess esophageal motility
- Dysmotility if abnormal peristalsis detected on 2+ of 5 Swallows
- Rapidly gulp optimally distends esophagus to rule out rings/strictures
- Right lateral position - Assess For Spontaneous GER (5)

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Barium Swallow

Do BS If Pt. C/O Solids Sticking?

- Liquids – **Not** Solids – Tested
- Study May Look Normal!

Some doctors recommend barium swallow w solid bolus
follow bolus through esophagus

Barium swallows should be reserved for pts suspected of
structural esophageal abnormalities

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PPI Test ⁽⁷⁾

- PPI test to dx GERD
- Potentially dangerous
- Safe and simple diagnostic tests available!
- Multiple studies W pH testing to validate GERD found 30% of PPI users are not refluxing
- Meds unnecessary

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Lifestyle/dietary Treatment ⁽⁹⁾

- Lifestyle/dietary treatment more important than anti-reflux meds
- Must use acid suppressive meds as well as diet, lifestyle modifications in combination if pt. presents w severe reflux
 - particularly those w reactive airways diseases - chronic cough, laryngospasm and asthma
- Obesity and reflux go together
 - pt. overeats, consumes a lot of fried and fatty foods, chocolate and carbonated beverages and eats late at night
 - high risk behaviors for reflux disease

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(3)

- Healthy foods (bananas, pears, oatmeal) can trigger reflux in some people
- Pts w severe LPR
 - 2 wk. induction (detox) reflux diet
 - nothing consumed is pH less than 5
- No eating permitted within 4 hrs. of bed
- Consumption of alkaline pH less than 8 – water is encouraged
- Gets pts. better fast

General lifestyle recommendations

- Quit smoking
- Don't wear clothing too tight (trousers, corsets, bras, belts)
- Avoid exercising after eating – wt. lifting, jogging, yoga
- Don't lie down right after eating
- Don't eat anything within 3 hrs. of bedtime
- Elevate head of bed if nighttime refluxer
 - hoarseness, sore throat, cough in morning

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Best for reflux food/beverage ⁽³⁾

- Bananas
- Melons – best fruit for refluxers
- Aloe vera – great thickener and good for digestion
- Salad and vegetables (exclude onions, tomatoes, garlic, peppers)
- Rice/whole grains – brown rice, bulgur wheat, healthy bread
- Oatmeal – one of best breakfast foods
- Ginger – good for reflux
- Poultry – baked or grilled, skinless preferred
- Tofu
- Fish – all seafood is good for reflux

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Pharmacological Treatment

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Therapeutic trial w antireflux meds

(9)

- Medical treatment failure rates w PPI's are increasing
- Effective reflux management depends on dietary **and** lifestyle variables
- Acid suppressive meds alone no longer constitute appropriate therapeutic trial
 - Not reliable or cost effective

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Over the Counter Meds ⁽¹⁰⁾

Acid buffers – neutralize stomach acid, relieves heartburn

- Don't heal inflammation
- Liquid forms work faster
 - Maalox, Tums, Rolaids, Gaviscon, etc.
- Antacids w magnesium cause diarrhea
 - Milk of magnesia, Maalox liquid, Equate, Rolaids, Mylanta, Droxygel, Gelusil, Quick-Eze
- Antacids w aluminum cause constipation
 - Maalox, Mylanta, Equate, Droxygel, Maalox (liquid and tablet)

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Over the Counter Meds ⁽¹¹⁾

H2 blockers

- Cause stomach to make less acid
 - Pepcid AC
 - Tagamet
 - Zantac
 - Axid
- Pts. w nocturnal reflux given PPI and H2 antagonist at bedtime
 - works better during sleep than PPI

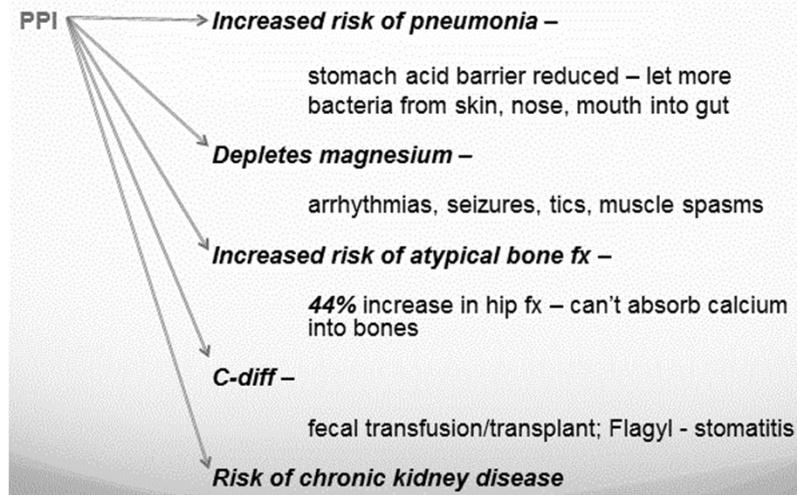
Proton Pump Inhibitor

- Block production of acid
 - Prevacid - omeprazole
 - Prilosec - esomeprazole
 - Nexium – esomeprazole

Ineffective in controlling regurgitation

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Pharmacology



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PPI's ⁽¹²⁾

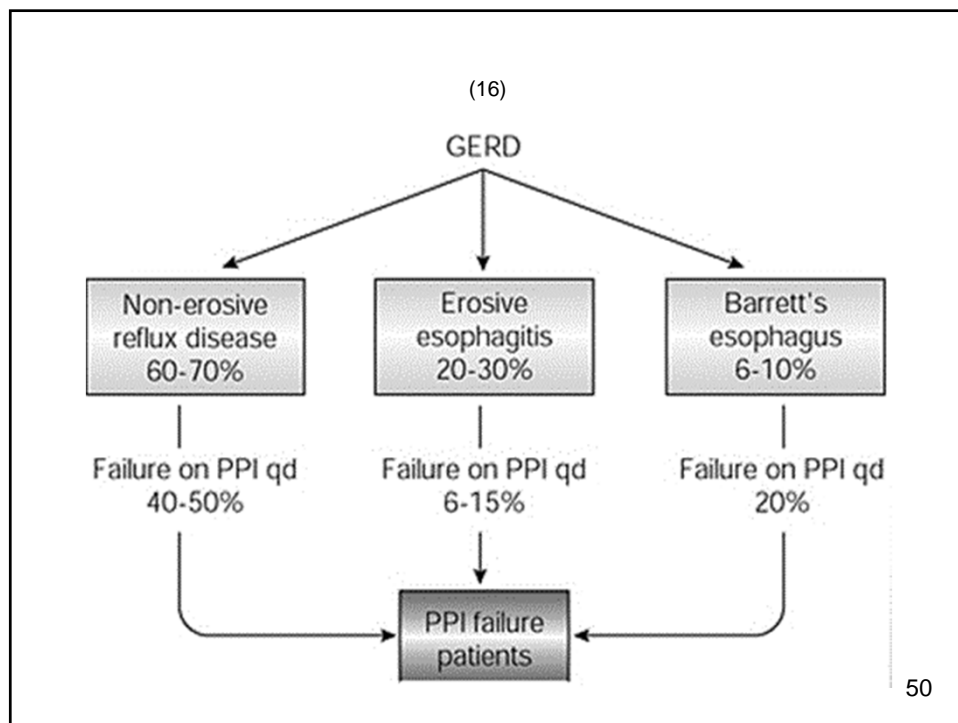
- Among most widely prescribed and overprescribed meds
- Studies suggest 25% - 70% of scripts written for PPI's in U.S. don't have appropriate medical indications
- Most commonly used anti-reflux drugs followed by H2 antagonists
 - \$15 billion in annual sales in US alone
 - best acid suppression of any anti-reflux medication ⁽⁹⁾

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PPI's

- Controversial in recent years –
 - concerns about rebound hyperacidity following drug cessation – hypersecretion of acid (9)
- Pts w mild GERD symptoms using PPIs 60% more likely to develop Barrett's Esophagus, than those w more severe GERD symptoms
- Another study concluded PPI usage may reduce or eliminate symptoms
 - does not stop disease progression (12)

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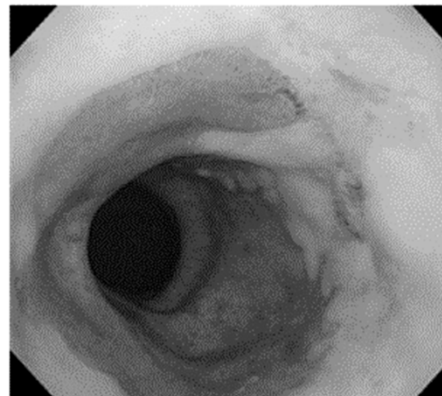


Common Disorders Associated With Reflux

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Barrett's Esophagus ⁽²¹⁾

- Premalignant Lesion For CA (Esophagus, Esophagogastric Junction)
- Chronic GER
- 96% w Hiatal Hernia 2cm Or Greater ⁽¹³⁾
- Decreased LES Pressure
- Increased Frequency & Duration Of Acid Exposure, Hiatal Hernia.
- Ineffective Peristalsis = Poor Clearance Of Refluxed Gastric Contents ⁽⁴⁾



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Barrett's Esophagus ⁽³⁶⁾

Meds

- Proton Pump Inhibitors
- Aspirin and NSAIDS may protect against cancer
- Controls Heartburn But Regurgitation May Be Problem
- Escalate Dose To Control Symptoms
- **25% Pts, BID Did Not Reduce Acid Exposure To Normal** (4)

Surgical

- Esophagectomy:
 - High Grade Dysplasia And/Or Adenocarcinoma
 - Surgical Removal Of Esophagus (3)
 - Only tx that removes all damaged epithelium
 - Highest rates of short term mortality

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Barrett's Esophagus Therapy - Endoscopic

Thermal Ablation

Remove thin layer of diseased tissue

- Multipolar Electrocoagulation – MPEC
- Argon Plasma Coagulation – APC
- Laser Ablation

Contraindicated:

- Prior radiation tx to esophagus
- Esophageal varices
- Heller myotomy

Complications

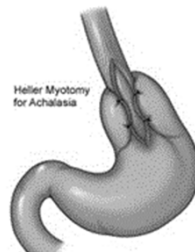
Mucosal laceration

Perforation of esophagus requiring surgery

Bleeding

Infection

Stricture formation requiring dilation



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Categorized by Dysplasia Abnormal Cell Growth ⁽³⁶⁾

Low Grade Dysplasia

- Some Atypical Changes
- Does Not Involve Most Of The Cells
- Growth Pattern Still Normal
- Appears to progress to high grade dysplasia which progresses to cancer
- PPI's reduce incidence of dysplasia

High Grade Dysplasia

- Esophagectomy only therapy that removes all affected epithelium
- Highest rates of short term mortality
- Average hospital stay approx. 2 wks.
- 30-50% develop at least one serious complication
- Frequently causes long term morbidities – dysphagia, wt. loss, reflux, dumping syndrome
- Severe Precancerous Tissue Changes
- Growth Pattern Very Irregular

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Endoscopic mucosal resection

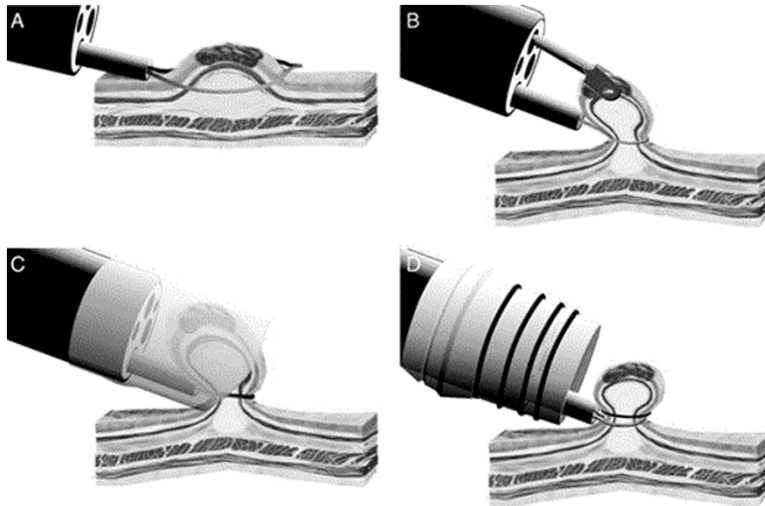
(22)

- endoscope to resect mucosal lesions.
- lesions lifted using saline solution or suction and excised w a cap and/or snare
- performed to accurately diagnose depth of lesion and as potential curative procedure for high-grade dysplasia

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Endoscopic Mucosal Resection

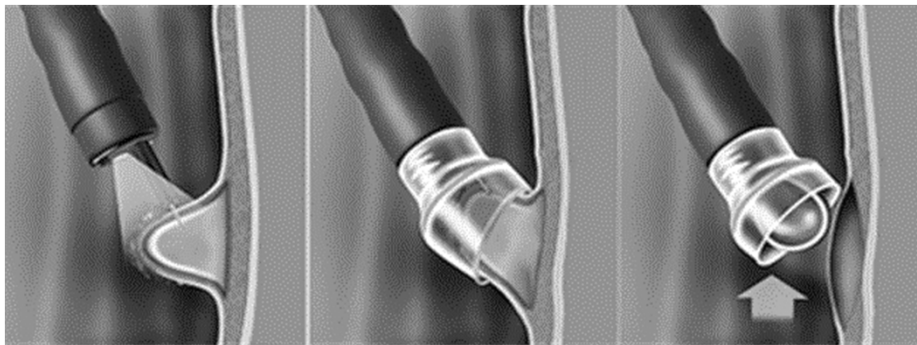
jco.ascopubs.org



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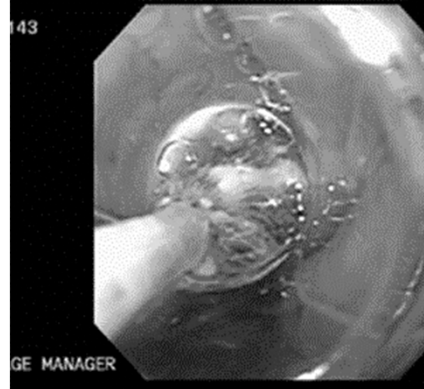
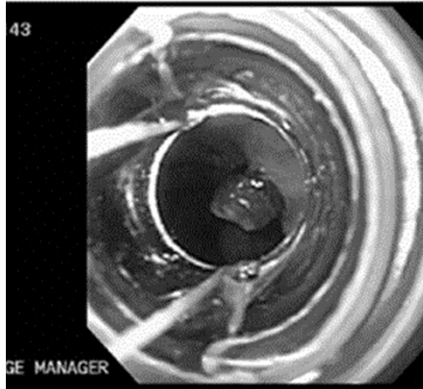
Endoscopic Mucosal Resection

www.michaelbickford.com.au



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Removal of early adenocarcinoma
 (27) Banding/snare technique Specimen retrieval w/net basket



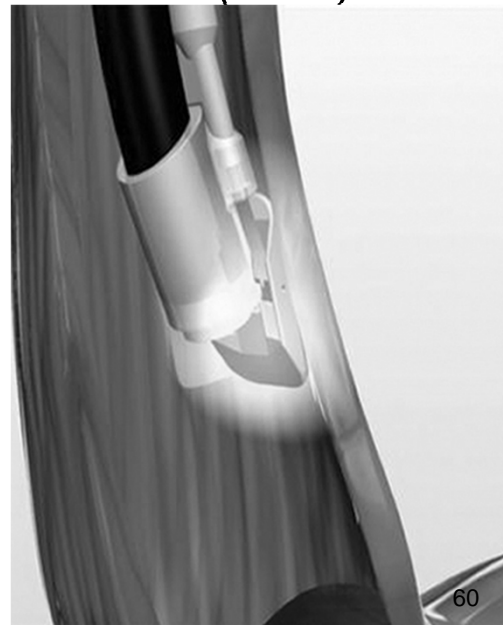
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Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)

(22)

- direct thermal energy applied to esophageal lining
- probes fixed to endoscope tip for radiofrequency ablation.
- strong evidence supports RFA for eradication of flat, residual Barrett's esophagus (following EMR) in pts w high-grade dysplasia and pts w no or low-grade dysplasia w additional risk factors.

www.wikirefua.org



Photodynamic therapy (PDT)

(22)

- Porfimer sodium accumulates in dysplastic tissue
 - Tissues light sensitive and destroyed when activated by endoscopic light source.
- Significantly more effective than PPI in eliminating high-grade dysplasia
- While PDT and argon plasma coagulation (APC) therapies were equally effective in eradicating Barrett's mucosa, PDT more effective in eradicating dysplasia .
- used w pts w esophageal cancer and local failure after chemo/radiotherapy, and pts w early stage esophageal tumors who refused/not candidates for esophagectomy.

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Photodynamic therapy (PDT)

(22)

Pro

- Significantly more effective than PPI in eliminating high-grade dysplasia
- While PDT and argon plasma coagulation (APC) therapies were equally effective in eradicating Barrett's mucosa, PDT more effective in eradicating dysplasia

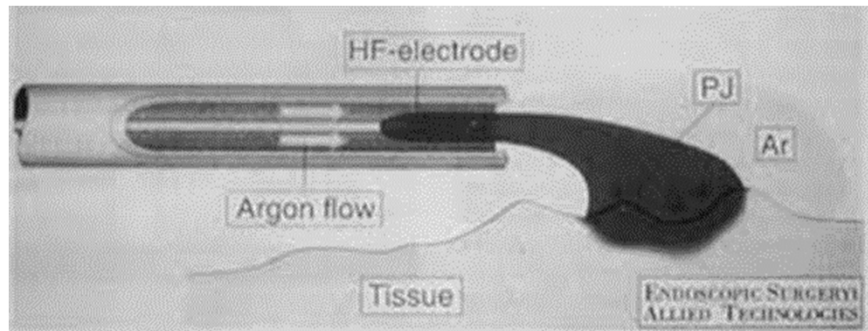
Con

- Porfimer sodium accumulates in tissue
 - remains in body up to 2 months
 - extremely photosensitive, and must avoid any exposure to sunlight.
- Main adverse effect is formation of strictures
 - high as 30%

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Argon plasma coagulation (APC) high-frequency current conducted to tissue by ionized argon gas ⁽²²⁾

www.lireriauniverso.it



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Argon plasma coagulation (APC)⁽²²⁾

Pro

- In 70% of pts.
 - 95% Barrett's tissue replaced w healthy mucosa
 - 40% complete regression of Barrett's tissue
- 25% surveillance pts
 - 95%+ regression of Barrett's tissue.
- easy to use for small lesions (<4 cm), and
- reasonable safety profile

Con

- Strictures in 5% to 10% pts.
- Heightened risk of buried glands
 - More common w APC vs. other ablative techniques
- Major complications
 - Pain
 - Dysphagia

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Multipolar electrocoagulation (MPEC)

(22)

- Thermal energy through probe via endoscope to deliver current between two or more electrodes.
- 139 pts w Barrett's/no dysplasia followed over 10 yrs.
 - Recurrence in less than 5%
 - No adenocarcinoma or high-grade dysplasia in pt.
- MPEC and APC reported equal efficacy to completely eradicate Barrett's esophagus.

Major complications

- Painful swallowing
- Chest pain
- Fever
- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Stricture

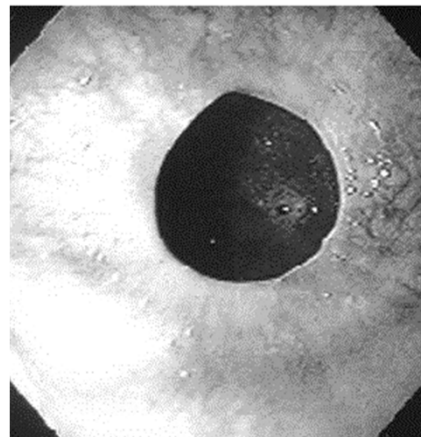
Disadvantages

- Multiple procedures required
- Only small area treated at one time (<4 cm).

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- Seen w Chronic Inflammation and Fibrosis, strictures
- Diameter less than 13mm creates symptoms of dysphagia
- May Have Reflux, **Hiatal Hernia**, Reflux Esophagitis
- Recurrence Common
- **65% Have Abnormal Esophageal Acid Exposure**
- **Studies suggest acid suppression may prevent recurrence of rings after dilation** (42)

Schatzki's Ring (24)



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Eosinophilic Esophagitis

- Diagnose by biopsy
 - 6 to 9 biopsies
- GERD + dietary or airborne allergens = EE
- Chronic inflammation, fibrosis, then rings & scarring
- PPI 2x/day normalizes eosinophil levels
- Heal esophagitis before EE resolves
 - esophagitis allows eosinophil buildup

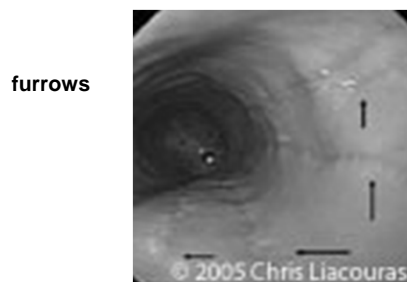
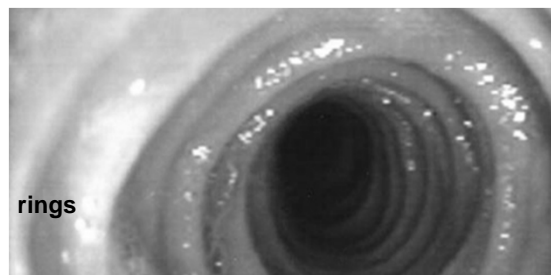
Guidelines:

- PPI
- Steroids
- Dilatations
- Food removal
- Deep mucosa tears occur frequently
- Guide wire dilation under fluoroscopy
- Oral corticosteroids
- Removal of foods (17)

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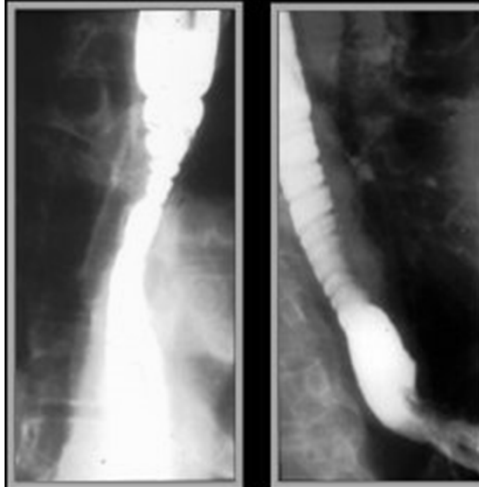
American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders

www.apfed.org



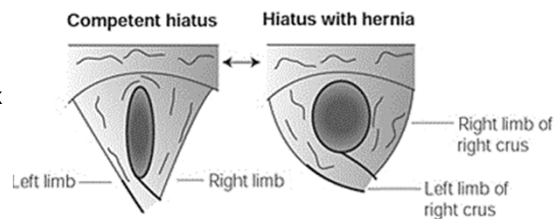
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Radiological features of eosinophilic esophagitis



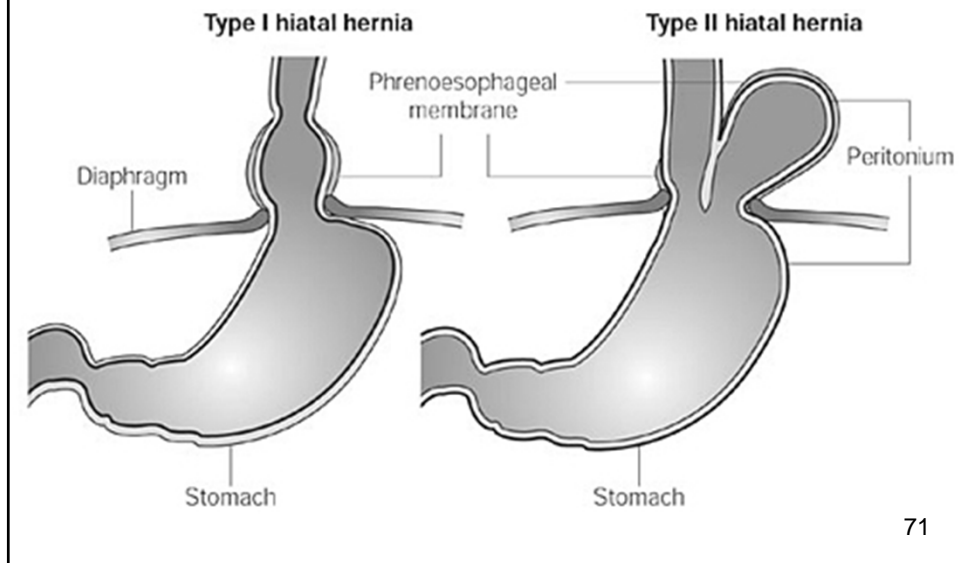
- Elliptically Shaped Slit Through Diaphragm
- **Type 1 “Sliding”** –Slit Turns Into Rounded Opening
 - Most Frequent Hernia – 50-94% Have GERD
 - Acquired Condition In 5th Decade Of Life
 - Possible Cause – Pregnancy, Obesity, Reflux – impaired acid clearance
- Re-reflux From Hernia w swallow
 - Occurs During Inspiration From Loss Of Normal One Way Valve Function
 - Can't Prevent Backflow (13)

Hiatal Hernia (25)



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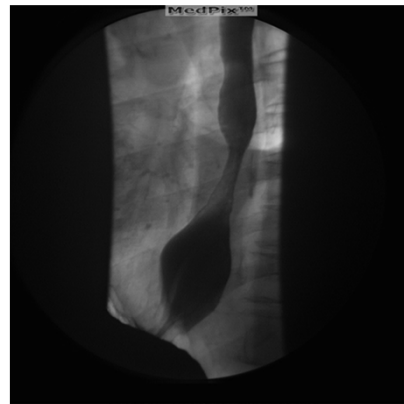
Type I vs. Type II (25)



71

Strictures/Reflux Stricture/Peptic Stricture

- 60-70% GERD Related
- Fibrotic Narrowing From acid
- 30-40% From Corrosive Injury, Radiation, Sclerotherapy Or Photodynamic Therapy
- Careful Hx Diagnoses 80% Of Cases
- Dysphagia W Solids
 - From Degree Of Esophagitis + Stricture Diameter (23)



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Conditions associated with strictures (26)

- Barrett's esophagus
- Scleroderma
- Schatzki's rings
- Post achalasia treatment
- Prolonged nasogastric tube intubations
 - Impaired LES function
 - Prolonged acid exposure
- Hiatal hernia – 85% w strictures
- Medications – aspirin and NSAIDs – 75% of pts consume these drugs
 - 50% w benign esophageal structures had taken NSAID within 12 months preceding dx
- GERD
- Esophageal cancer
- Radiation therapy
- Esophageal surgery
- Eosinophilic esophagitis
- Sclerotherapy
- Caustic injury
- PDT - photodynamic therapy

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Strictures

- **Dilation**
 - **Initial Dilator** Approximates Estimated Diameter Of Stricture
 - Two Additional Dilators Of Increasing Size
 - **Rule Of Three Is Standard**
 - Some Dilated Over More Than One Session
 - 95% Relief Of Dysphagia
 - Pts w peptic stricture should be treated w PPI
 - PPI decreases stricture recurrence and need for repeat
- **Fundoplication**
 - Effective For Dysphagia In GERD Pts W Peptic Stricture
 - Reduces Requirement For Repeat Dilation
- **Steroids**
 - Reduce Inflammation
 - Only Anecdotal Reports (19)

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Gastroparesis

- Delayed Gastric Emptying
- Vagus Nerve damage
- Diagnosed By Endoscopy, Ultrasound, Barium Swallow
- Food Retention Creates
 - Bacterial Overgrowth
 - Solid Food Hardens/Blocks Passage Of Food
 - Difficulty Controlling Blood Glucose Levels (17)

Causes

- **GERD**
- Amyloidosis
- Scleroderma
- Parkinson's
- Hypothyroidism

Symptoms

- Heartburn
- GERD

75

Treatment - Gastroparesis

- **Gastric Electrical Stimulation**
 - Battery Operated Device Releases Electrical Pulses
 - **Botox**
 - Need Further Research
- **Medication**
 - Reglan*****
 - Erythromycin
 - Domperidon – not FDA approved in US BUT may be obtained in certain circumstances
 - druginfo@fda.hhs.gov circumstances
- **Dietary Changes**
 - 6 Small Meals
 - Liquid/Puree Diet
 - Avoid High Fat (Slows Digestion) / High Fiber Foods (Hard To Digest)
 - Avoid Oranges/Broccoli – Contains Material That Can't Be Digested
- **Feeding Tube** – J Tube Bypasses Stomach
 - Last Resort
- **Parenteral Nutrition**
 - Nutrients Directly Into Blood Stream (13)

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Presbyesophagus or Presbyphagia ⁽²⁴⁾

- Failure Of Peristalsis In **Older** Esophagus
- LES Changes Little
- Some Damage Reflux Based
- Pts With Ineffective Motility Often Have LES Hypotension
- No Treatment To Restore Muscle Contractility
- Little/No Dysphagia
- W dysphagia, Look For Complicating Disorder – Reflux Esophagitis Or Peptic Stricture ⁽¹⁴⁾



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Ineffective Esophageal Motility Disorders

Found With

- Mixed Connective Tissue Disease
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Lupus
- DM
- Amyloidosis
- Alcoholism
- Multiple Sclerosis ⁽¹⁷⁾

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Surgical and Endoscopic Approaches

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Endoscopic Approaches for Reflux

(15)

Medications only control symptoms

does not address underlying cause of reflux – damaged LES

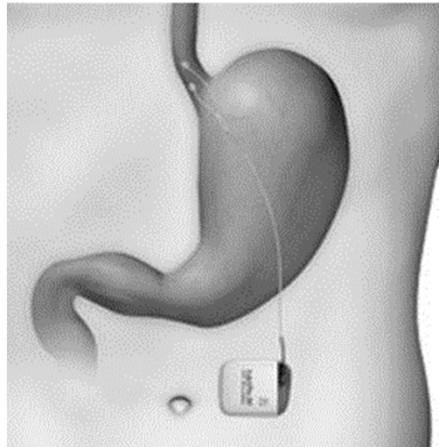
Procedures to repair LES:

- Nissen fundoplication
- Partial fundoplication
- Transoral Incisionless fundoplication
- Stretta
- LINX

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EndoStim ⁽¹⁹⁾

- Temporary LES electrical stimulation increases pressure without interference w relaxation
- LES – EST safe and effective for GERD
- Significant and sustained improvement in symptoms, reduced acid exposure w elimination of daily PPI use, and no adverse effects
- Chronic stim of LES w improved GERD may be sustained after EST stopped
- Limited to investigational use in US



www.medicalexpo.com

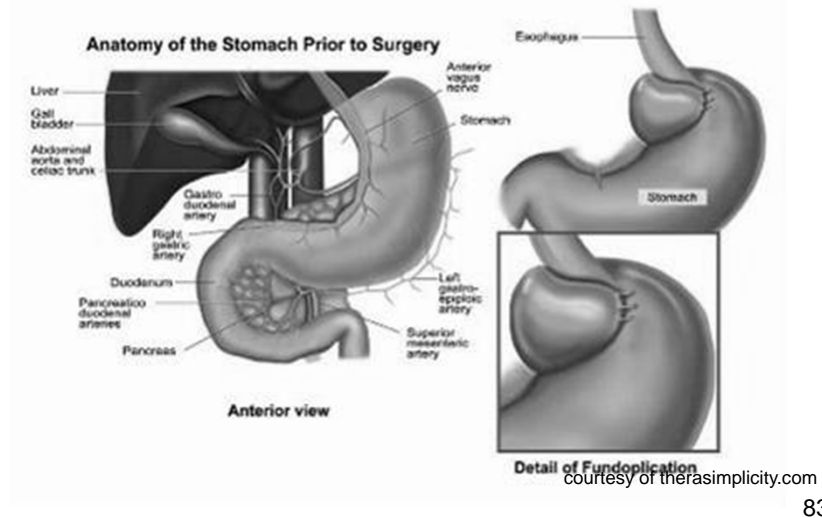
81

Nissen Fundoplication ⁽⁹⁾

- Primary effective surgical option for treatment
- Wrap dome of stomach around esophagus
- Sew to produce tight angle where esophagus enters stomach
- Single most effective treatment for GER and LPR
- Recommended for pts. w lung disease related to reflux and pts. who can't tolerate/fail medical treatment

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Nissen Fundoplication



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Nissen Fundoplication ⁽¹⁵⁾

Pros

- Safe and effective
- High success rate
- Proven long term success
- Eliminates or reduces need for meds

Cons

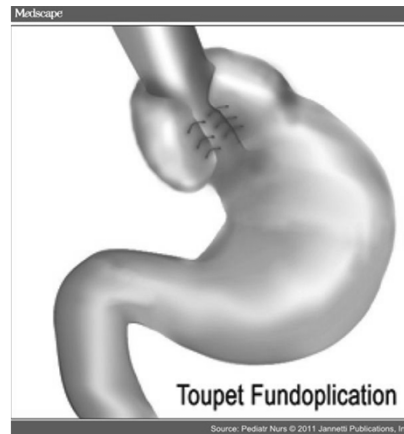
- Long term
 - Dysphagia
 - Diarrhea
 - Bloating
 - 1/3 unable to belch/vomit
- Complications w surgery
 - Bleeding
 - Injury to abdominal organs

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Partial Fundoplication or Toupet

(15)

- Stomach wrapped only partway around lower esophagus
- Used when esophageal function damaged by long term reflux



www.medscape.com

85

Partial Fundoplication or Toupet

(15)

Pros

- Safe and effective
- High success rate
- Proven long term success
- Eliminates/reduces meds
- Fewer side effects than Nissen

Cons

- Possibly less durable than Nissen
- Effectiveness decreases over time

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Stretta: www.reflux1.com For Video

Radiofrequency Energy To
Gastroesophageal Junction

Catheter W 4 Electrodes
Creates Rings In
Esophagus

Tightens LES

- Reduced/Eliminated meds
- Improvement In Heartburn



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Stretta ⁽¹⁵⁾

Pros

- Treated sphincter becomes stronger
- Less invasive than laparoscopic surgery
- More than 5 yrs. of clinical studies show significant improvement in QOL

Cons

- May not totally eliminate meds

Side Effects (1st 1000 Cases)

- Aspiration
- Pleural Effusion
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Death

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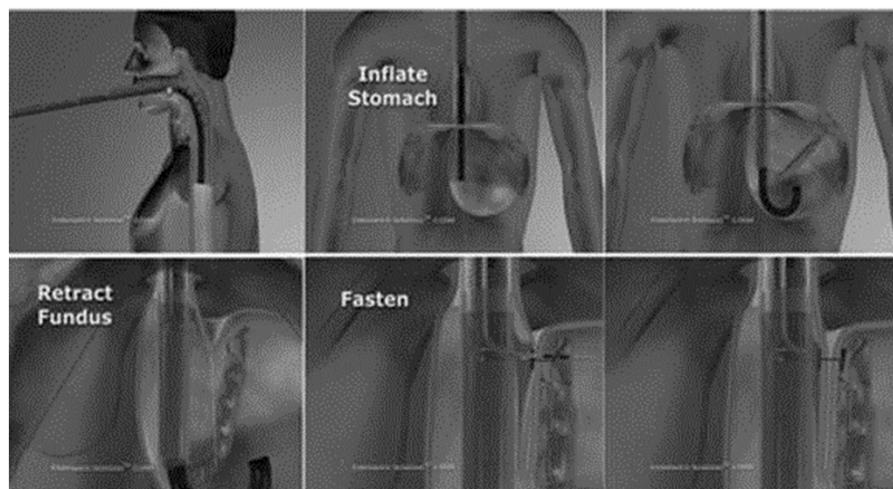
Transoral incisionless fundoplication

- 40% of PPI-dependent pts. have troublesome GERD symptoms, despite PPI tx
- Can be repeated and reversed
- TF was effective treatment for pts. w GERD symptoms, particularly those w persistent regurgitation despite PPI tx, based on evaluation 6 months after procedure ⁽²⁰⁾

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Esophyx Transoral incisionless fundoplication

www.healthtap.com



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Transoral incisionless fundoplication ⁽¹⁵⁾

Pros

- Minimal pain
- No scars
- Fast recovery time
- Very few side effects
- Reduce/dc meds

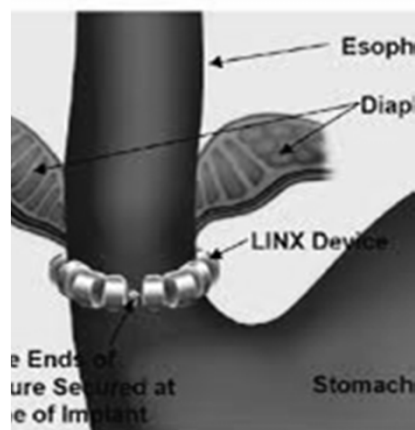
Cons

- Does not reliably stop reflux
- Hiatus hernia – if present – cannot be repaired
- Durability is unclear

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LINX ⁽¹⁵⁾

- Small flexible band of beads w magnets
- Placed around outside of esophagus
- Magnetic attraction between beads helps sphincter stay closed to prevent reflux
- Swallowing food allows beads to separate



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LINX ⁽¹⁵⁾

Pros

- High success rate in stopping reflux and eliminating PPI use
- Minimal side effects
- Safer than long term use of PPI's
- Reversible and can be replaced

Cons

- New procedure
- Long term results yet to be confirmed
- Not all GERD pts are candidates
- Side effect is difficulty swallowing – subsides over time

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What to Remember?

Your Role!

Understand information you learn w diagnostic tests

Reflux and associated disorders

Available treatments

- lifestyle/diet changes
- pharmacological
- surgical
- endoscopic treatments

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