Buried Bumper Syndrome complicated by intra-abdominal sepsis

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Abstract

There is growing evidence that enteral feeding tubes are associated with increased mortality and complication rates in patients with advanced dementia. Buried Bumper Syndrome is an uncommon, but well documented late complication of PEG placement. Our case report reinforces this recognised risk of PEG feeding in an elderly, cognitively impaired patient.

Keywords: percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, dementia, buried bumper syndrome

Introduction

Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) is used increasingly for long-term enteral support in patients with dementia. However, numerous complications have been reported since its introduction in 1980 [1]. Buried Bumper Syndrome (BBS) is an uncommon, but well documented complication of PEG placement. We report a case of BBS complicated by a large intra-abdominal abscess.

Case report

An 81-year-old lady with advanced dementia was admitted to our hospital from a nursing home with vomiting and rigors. A PEG had been in situ for 3 years. Examination revealed a large, tender, right-sided abdominal mass. She was tachycardic and pyrexial with raised inflammatory markers. Ultrasound abdomen revealed a large intra-peritoneal abscess. Cultures grew enterococcal species and she was commenced on intravenous antibiotics. Gastroscopy and CT abdomen revealed migration of the PEG internal bumper out of the stomach. The patient was referred to the surgeons for urgent exploration and removal of PEG. She died two days after the procedure following a brainstem infarction.

Discussion

BBS is a serious complication of PEG tube insertion first described in 1988 [2, 3] and reported to occur in 0.3–2.4% of patients [4]. It is a late complication occurring up to 3 years post PEG insertion [5], but has been described at 21
Trench foot following a collapse

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Abstract

Elderly patients commonly present to hospital following a collapse and period of distressing immobilisation on the floor. We present a case of bilateral trench foot in such a patient with no prior peripheral vascular disease. Examination of the feet is mandatory for early detection of this rare condition in the collapsed elderly patient.

Keywords: trench foot, elderly, collapse

Introduction

The condition known as trench foot or immersion foot is usually associated with damp and cold settings such as warfare. It accounted for many casualties in both World Wars and also more recent conflicts such as the Korean, Vietnam and Falkland wars [1]. It has also been recognised as an increasing problem in the homeless and vagrant populations [2]. Here we report how a combination of old age and collapse led to bilateral trench foot. This case illustrates the vigilance and the

References


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