Aorto-oesophageal fistula with upper gastrointestinal tract intramural haematoma in an oesophageal cancer patient

Min-Shiau Hsieh\textsuperscript{ab}, Po-Kuei Hsu\textsuperscript{b,c,*}, Po-Lin Chen\textsuperscript{b,d} and Wen-Hu Hsu\textsuperscript{ab}

\textsuperscript{a} Division of Thoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan
\textsuperscript{b} School of Medicine, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan
\textsuperscript{c} Institute of Clinical Medicine, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan
\textsuperscript{d} Division of Cardiac Surgery, Department of Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan

* Corresponding author. Division of Thoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, No. 201, Sec. 2, Shih-Pai Road, Taipei, Taiwan. Tel: +886-2-28757546; fax: +886-2-28731488; e-mail: hsupokuei@yahoo.com.tw (P.-K. Hsu).

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Sudden onset haematemesis occurred in a 52-year old male with oesophageal cancer. Computed tomography showed an aorto-oesophageal fistula with contrast extravasation from the aorta. Thoracic endovascular aortic repair with stent graft was done. The haematemesis stopped postoperatively, but follow-up images (Fig. 1) showed persistent contrast extravasation. The patient died of another episode of massive haematemesis 1 week later.

Figure 1: The follow-up computed tomography on the next day showed persistent contrast extravasation from the descending thoracic aorta to the mural space of the oesophagus (A), resulting in an extensive intramural haematoma with downward dissection to the whole stomach as well as the duodenal bulb (B and C).