



‘Watermelon stomach’ Associated With Limited Systemic Sclerosis

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Clinical Image

Gastric Antral Vascular Ectasia (GAVE) is a rare but clinically important cause of chronic gastrointestinal bleeding [1-4]. It can be associated with a lot of systemic illnesses (cirrhosis, renal failure) including autoimmune diseases like limited systemic sclerosis [2,3]. Visible columns of red and ectatic vessels along the longitudinal folds of the antrum seen on endoscopy are pathognomonic for GAVE, also described as ‘watermelon stomach’. This is a case of GAVE associated with limited systemic sclerosis in a 78-year-old woman.

Due to iron deficiency anemia and melanotic stools, she initially underwent Endoscopy and Colonoscopy which were negative for any abnormal findings. Pill capsule enteroscopy was performed after which showed moderate GAVE (“watermelon stomach”) (Figures 1-3) which was coagulated for hemostasis using an argon beam, which was successful.

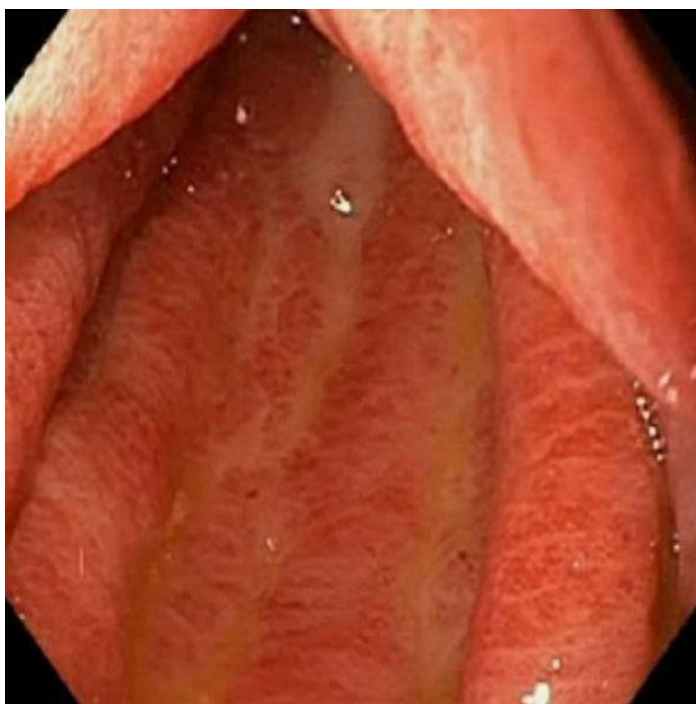


Figure 1: Clinical cause of chronic gastrointestinal bleeding.



Figure 2: Abnormal findings of endoscopy and colonoscopy.

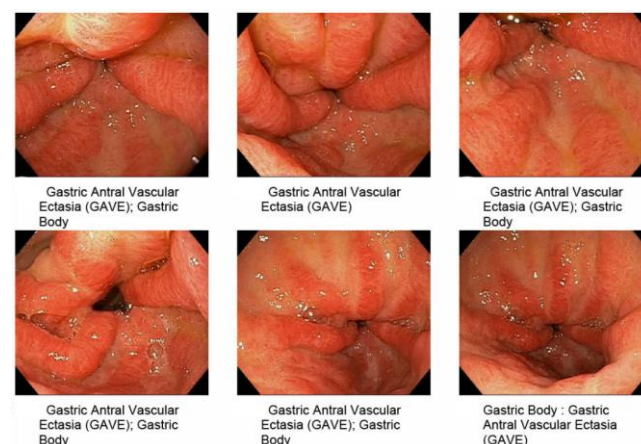


Figure 3: Pill capsule enteroscopy was performed after which showed moderate GAVE.

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