

IMPRESSIVE IMAGES

Impressive Image



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Heterotopic Sebaceous Glands in the Esophagus

A 55-year-old man suffered from dull epigastric pain and a mild heartburn sensation for 1 month. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was performed and revealed mild reflux esophagitis in the lower esophagus. Furthermore, we observed multiple yellowish papular esophageal lesions varying size from 1 to 5 mm located in the middle esophagus (Fig. 1). A biopsy specimen revealed lobules of differentiated sebaceous glands within the lamina propria (Fig. 2, H & E x100).

Esophageal heterotopic sebaceous glands are rare and were first reported by De La Pava and Pickren in 1961. The reason for the formation of sebaceous glands in the esophagus is still unknown. A congenital embryological error (ectopic) is possible. But a large necropsy study from 1000 pediatric subjects showed the absence of sebaceous glands. Thus, metaplasia of mucus glands in the esophagus was hypothesized. Meanwhile, sebaceous glands in the esophagus have not been associated with other skin appendages.

Sebaceous glands in the esophagus should be distinguished from a xanthoma. A xanthoma appear as multiple slightly yellowish, tiny flat aggregations. However, heterotopic sebaceous glands appear yellowish with oval- to irregularly shaped papules. The yellowish lipid substance was supposedly secreted by the glands due to irritative effects. In conclusion, esophageal heterotopic sebaceous glands are a benign condition, and further treatment is not needed.

Key Words: Heterotopic sebaceous gland; Xanthoma; Esophagus.

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