



Images in Hospital Medicine

Gastric Antral Vascular Ectasia in Limited Systemic Sclerosis

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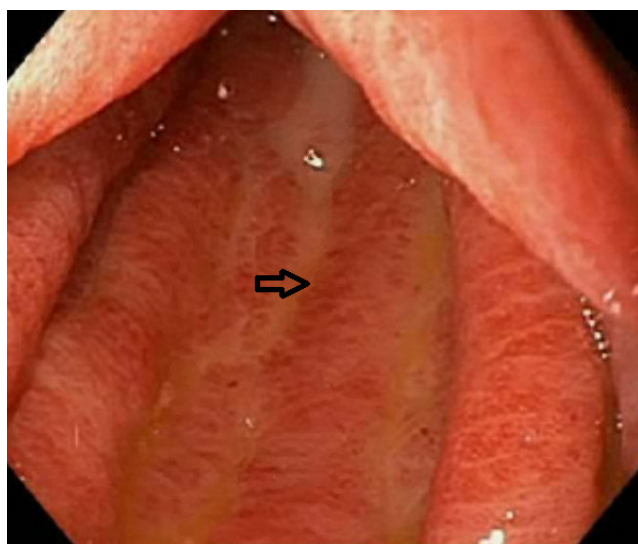


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Gastric antral vascular ectasia (GAVE) is a rare but clinically important cause of chronic gastrointestinal bleeding.¹⁻⁴ It can be associated with many systemic illnesses (cirrhosis, renal failure) including autoimmune diseases such as 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.’¹⁻⁴ A 78-year-old woman with limited systemic sclerosis presented with iron deficiency anemia and melanotic stools. She initially underwent esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) and colonoscopy which did not demonstrate abnormal findings. Video capsule endoscopy was showed moderate GAVE as shown in Figures 1 and 2 (arrows showing vascular columns), which was successfully coagulated for hemostasis using an argon beam laser on a subsequent EGD.

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Author Conflicts of Interest

No disclosures or conflict of interest



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