

Malignant Esophagogastric Strictures: Palliation with Self-Expanding Metallic Stent

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Purpose:

Self-expanding Gianturco stent tube and Strecker stent have been recently used for palliative treatment of malignant esophagogastric stricture. We report our experience of self expanding metallic stents in 42 patients with malignant esophagogastric stricture during recent two years.

Materials and Methods

Forty-four esophageal metallic stents (38 Gianturco stent tube, and 6 Strecker stent) were inserted in 36 patients with esophageal cancer, three patients with advanced gastric cancer, and three patients with post-operative recurrence of esophageal cancer at anastomotic site. Of the 42 patients, 38 patients were contraindicated to operation because of distant node or organ metastasis or air-way invasion. Three patients had post-operative recurred tumor and one patient refused operation. Eight patients had fistula between the esophagus and the air-way or the pleural space.

Results:

No technical failure or major procedural complications occurred in any patients. Before insertion of stent, all patients had aphagia or dysphagia even to soft food. After the procedure, 37 patients (88%) were able to ingest most or all foods, and three patients ingested soft foods without problem. Two patients could not ingest food due to aspiration of food.

All fistulas between the esophagus and the air-way or the pleural space were occluded immediately after stent insertion. There were no further aspiration symptom in these patients.

One patient showed stent migration to stomach without problem. Blockage of the stent occurred in two patients by tumor overgrowth. Delayed esophageal rupture or delayed massive bleeding occurred in two patients.

Conclusion:

We believe that the use of self-expanding esophageal metallic stent seems to be an effective palliative treatment for malignant esophagogastric stricture.