



Image of the month

Cervical esophageal perforation with foreign body lodged in the thyroid gland

Perforación esofágica cervical con cuerpo extraño alojado en glándula tiroides

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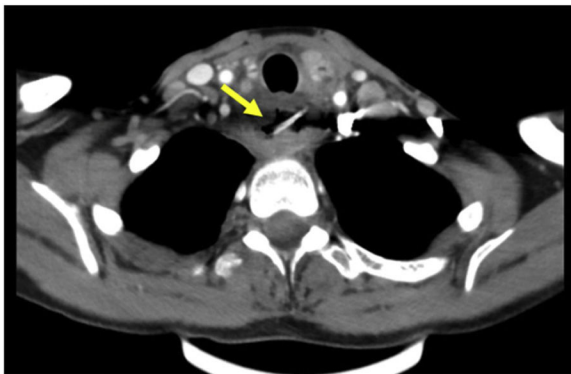


Fig. 1 – Axial image of cervico-thoracic CT where identifies a foreign body passing through the cervical esophagus reaching the thyroid gland.

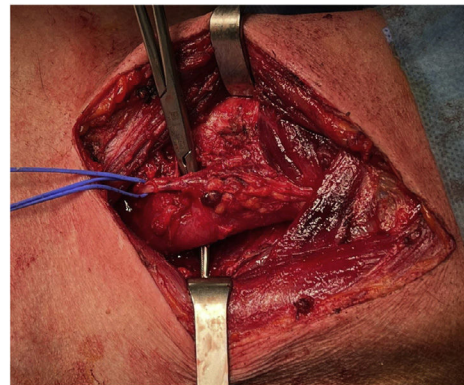


Fig. 2 – Intraoperative image of lateral cervicotomy left, identifying esophageal perforation in the face before and after. Left recurrent laryngeal nerve tutored with blue vessel loop.

A 42-year-old male came to the Emergency Department reporting the sensation of a pharyngeal foreign body associated with dysphagia, fever and cervical swelling over the previous 3 days. A cervical-thoracic computed tomography scan revealed a foreign body perforating and going through the cervical esophagus, reaching the thyroid gland, with extraluminal and intrathyroid gas bubbles; reactive locoregional lymphadenopathies were also observed (Fig. 1).

A left lateral cervicotomy revealed a double cervical esophageal perforation (approximately 3 cm) on the anterior and posterior sides, traversed by a foreign body (chicken bone) that penetrated the thyroid (Fig. 2). We performed left thyroid lobectomy, primary double-layer suture of both perforations, and a local drain tube was placed.

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