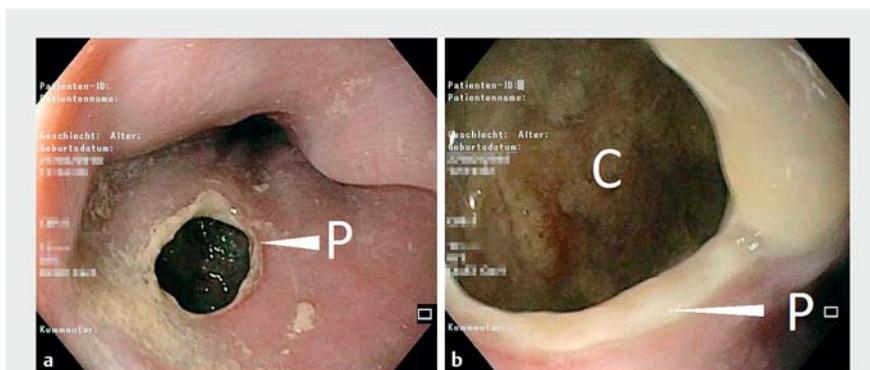


Iatrogenic esophageal perforation during fundoplication: treatment with endoscopic negative pressure therapy

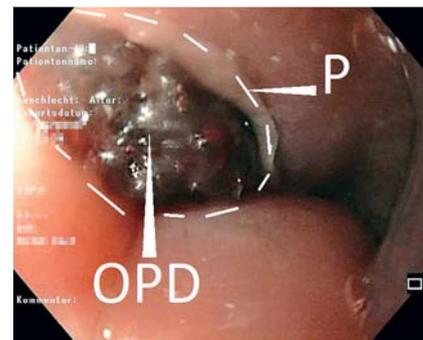
Iatrogenic esophageal perforation caused by insertion of a gastric tube during a fundoplication operation is a severe and rare intraoperative complication. A 64-year-old woman underwent laparoscopic Nissen fundoplication. Intraoperatively, a large-bore gastric tube was inserted as a placeholder for the esophageal lumen. At 5 days after the procedure, increasing inflammation parameters and thoracic pain led to endoscopic examination.

At 5 cm from the oral side of the gastroesophageal junction, we found a transmural defect of 1.5 cm in diameter (► Fig. 1 a). The perforation opened into an extraluminal cavity filled with saliva and food (► Fig. 1 b), which was removed endoscopically. For intracavitary endoscopic negative pressure therapy (ENPT) [1–3], open-pore polyurethane foam drainage (OPD; Endo-SPONGE; B. Braun Melsungen AG, Melsungen, Germany), 1.5 cm in diameter and 4 cm in length

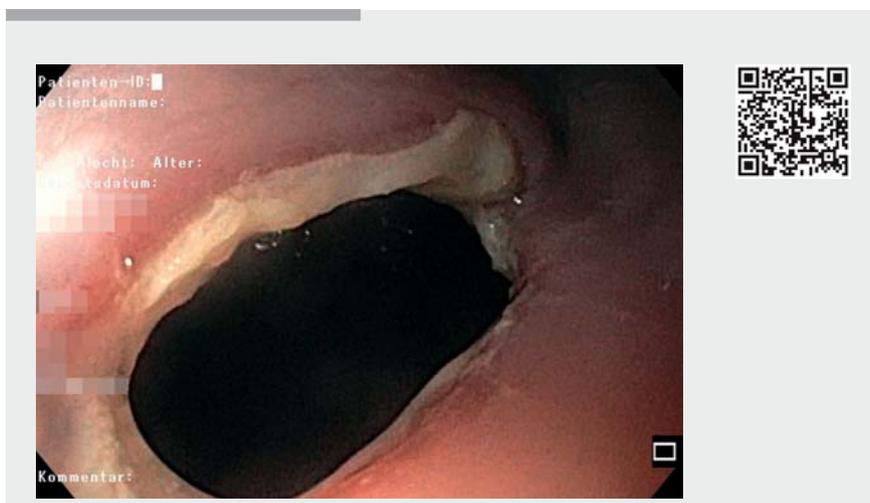
was fixed with a suture to the tip of a gastric tube (Ventrol, 12 Ch × 120 cm; Covidien Argyle, Dublin, Ireland). The foam was inserted using endoscopic forceps and pushed into the cavity through the defect. The tube was led out nasally, and negative pressure was applied using an electronic pump (KCI Activac; –125 mmHg, continuous, highest intensity). Suction resulted in drainage and collapse of the cavity and closure of the defect (► Fig. 2, ► Video 1).



► Fig. 1 Endoscopic view of the esophageal perforation (P). a The perforation in the distal esophagus. b The perforation and the extraluminal cavity (C) filled with saliva and food.



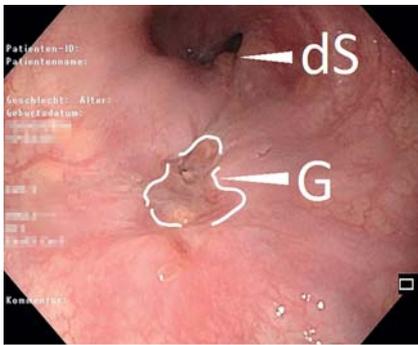
► Fig. 2 Application of negative pressure resulted in the perforation (P) being sucked onto the open-pore polyurethane foam drainage sponge (OPD) and closure of the defect.



► Video 1 Endoscopic negative pressure therapy for iatrogenic esophageal perforation, resulting in complete healing of the perforation defect.



► Fig. 3 Day 3 of endoscopic negative pressure therapy before exchange of open-pore polyurethane foam drainage (OPD). The device was without suction function. The pores of the OPD were blocked with secretions and the drainage device needed to be changed. The OPD tube (t) was led out nasally and connected externally to the electronic vacuum device.



► **Fig. 4** Endoscopic image 8 days after the end of endoscopic negative pressure therapy. Treatment resulted in closure of the perforation defect, which is filled with granulation tissue (G). dS, distal esophageal sphincter.

ENPT was continued for 12 days in total. Drainage was renewed four times, in an interval of 1–3 days. At the first exchange after 3 days, we found that the foam was blocked with mucous secretions (► **Fig. 3**). We subsequently reduced the exchange interval. After 10 days of intracavitary ENPT, the shrunken cavity was filled with granulation tissue (► **Fig. 4**).

The final period of ENPT was done within the esophageal lumen (intraluminal ENPT) using a double-lumen open-pore film drainage (OFD) [4, 5]. OFD was built with a Trilumina tube (Freka Trilumina, CH/Fr 16/9, 150 cm; Fresenius Kabi AG, Bad Homburg, Germany) and a thin, double-layered, open-pore film (Suprasorb CNP, Drainage Film; Lohmann & Rauscher International, Rengsdorf Germany) [5]. After the end of ENPT, enteral nutrition was started with a soft diet. At follow-up endoscopy 64 days after the end of ENPT, we observed complete healing and a small scar.

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Competing interests

Dr. Loske is a consultant for Lohmann & Rauscher GmbH & Co.KG.

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