

## Retrograde dilatation via gastrostomy of a proximal esophagoileal anastomotic stricture in an infant with esophageal atresia

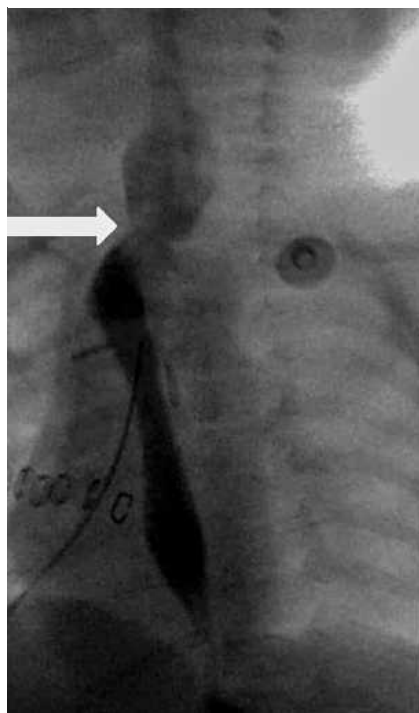
Esophageal stenosis is a common complication after surgical repair in children with esophageal atresia. The usual treatment is endoscopic dilatation. If this fails, reoperation is needed.

A male infant presented with type 1 esophageal atresia [1]. A gastrostomy was performed on day 1 after birth, definitive repair being delayed because of the long gap. Three months later an ileocecoloplasty was performed, the ileum being anastomosed to the cervical esophagus, enabling oral feeding. At the age of 5 months, the child was admitted for malaise. Barium studies revealed a dilation of the proximal esophagus above a narrow esophagoileal anastomotic stricture (◻ Fig. 1).

Esophagoscopy using a neonatal endoscope (Pentax EG1870K, 5 mm diameter) confirmed the stricture. Repeated attempts to pass a guide wire through the stricture failed. We therefore tried to perform a retrograde dilatation through the gastrostomy orifice. The endoscope was introduced from the stomach upwards to the ileocecoloplasty, close to the stricture. A guide was pushed retrogradely through the stricture (◻ Fig. 2) to the mouth, and dilatation was performed with Savary–Wizard dilators (diameter 5 and 7 mm).

The child is now aged 34 months and is growing with no recurrence of the stricture.

This case report shows that retrograde dilatation – requiring preexisting gastrostomy – represents an alternative when esophagoscopy fails. The assumption is that it is easier to introduce the guide wire in a retrograde manner, following the direction of progressive narrowing of the stricture. Concurrent esophagoscopy and transgastrostomy gastroscopy have already been used in adult patients with postradiotherapy esophageal stenosis [2,3]. To the best of our knowledge only one pediatric experience has been reported, that of a 4-year-old boy presenting with a distal esophageal stricture follow-



**Fig. 1** Barium study showing a stricture of the ileocecoloplasty.

ing fundoplication that was dilated in a retrograde manner via a gastrostomy orifice [4]. Our case report demonstrates that retrograde dilatation through gastrostomy can be efficient in the treatment of narrow proximal esophageal strictures, even in young infants.

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**Fig. 2** The infant in the operating room, with one end of the guide and dilator entering through the orifice of the gastrostomy, the other end coming out through the mouth.

### References

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