Rare Case of Liposarcoma of Hypopharynx Masquerading as Esophageal Lipoma

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Clinical image description

A 33-year-old female with no past medical history presented with a 3-month history of cough, slowly progressive dysphagia, and recent onset noisy breathing. The patient denied any loss of weight, hematemesis, or family history of malignancy. Physical exam was notable for mild inspiratory stridor and was otherwise unremarkable. CT neck showed a smooth hypodense fatty mass extending from the hypopharynx into the cervical esophagus. The radiological appearance of the mass was consistent with a lipoma (Figure 1). Barium swallow study showed similar hypopharyngeal and proximal esophageal mass corresponding to the lipomatous mass seen on CT (Figure 2).

The patient was admitted with an initial diagnosis of lipoma of the esophagus. However, on upper GI endoscopy, the mass was seen to be originating from the hypopharynx instead. The mass was found to be externally compressing the esophagus (Figure 3). The patient underwent an excisional biopsy, which turned out to be a liposarcoma.

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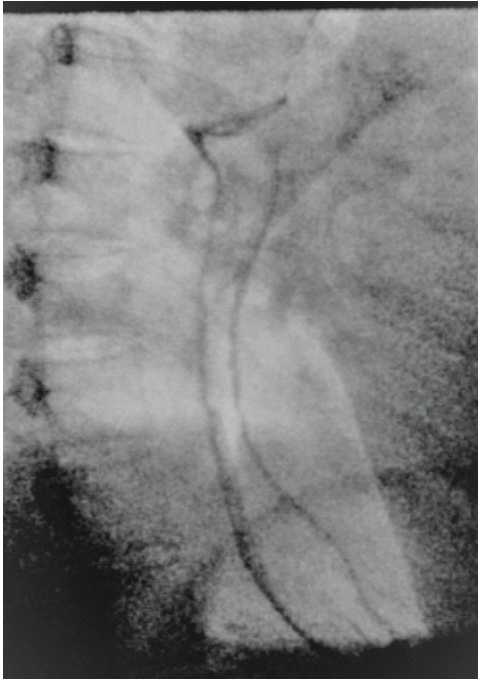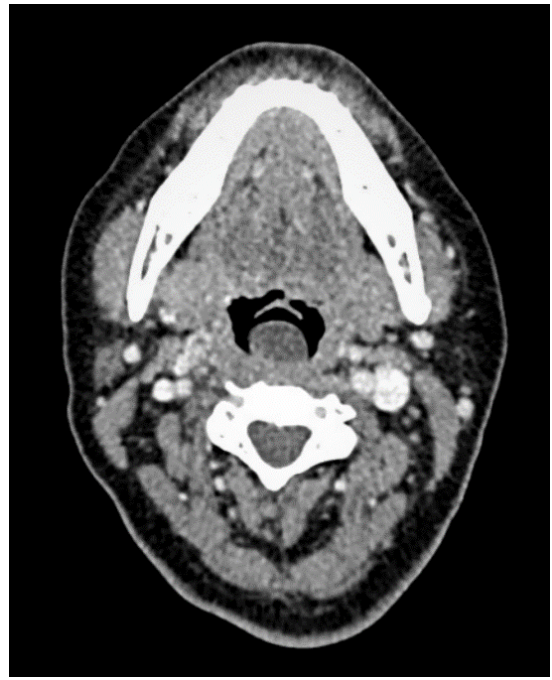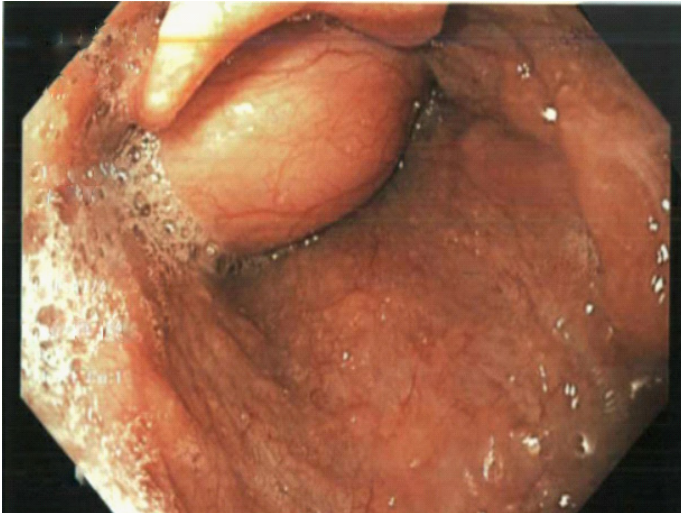
Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3