



*DSMC*

# Postoperative Complications on Esophageal Surgery

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- Systemic complications

  - pneumonia, ARDS

  - myocardial infarction

- Surgical procedure specific complication

  - anastomotic leaks, ischemia, stricture

  - chylothorax

  - recurrent laryngeal N. injury

  - dysphagia, reflux, delayed emptying,

  - dumping

# Risk factors

- Age
- Compromized pulmonary function(COPD)
- Malnutrition
- Renal and hepatic dysfunction
- Emergency surgery
- Cf. benign vs malignant
- Co-morbid (diabetes, obese...)

# Predictors of Major Morbidity or Mortality After Resection for Esophageal Cancer: A Society of Thoracic Surgeons General Thoracic Surgery Database Risk Adjustment Model

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**Background.** The purpose of this analysis was to revise the model for perioperative risk for esophagectomy for cancer utilizing The Society of Thoracic Surgeons General Thoracic Surgery Database to provide enhanced risk stratification and quality improvement measures for contributing centers.

**Methods.** The Society of Thoracic Surgeons General Thoracic Surgery Database was queried for all patients treated for esophageal cancer with esophagectomy between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2014. Multivariable risk models for major morbidity, perioperative mortality, and combined morbidity and mortality were created with the inclusion of surgical approach as a risk factor.

**Results.** In all, 4,321 esophagectomies were performed by 164 participating centers. The most common procedures included Ivor Lewis (32.5%), transhiatal (21.7%), minimally invasive esophagectomy, Ivor Lewis type (21.4%), and McKeown (10.0%). Sixty-nine percent of patients received induction therapy. Perioperative mortality (inpatient and 30-day) was 135 of 4,321 (3.4%). Major morbidity occurred in

1,429 patients (33.1%). Major morbidities include unexpected return to operating (15.6%), anastomotic leak (12.9%), reintubation (12.2%), initial ventilation beyond 48 hours (3.5%), pneumonia (12.2%), renal failure (2.0%), and recurrent laryngeal nerve paresis (2.0%). Statistically significant predictors of combined major morbidity or mortality included age more than 65 years, body mass index 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or greater, preoperative congestive heart failure, Zubrod score greater than 1, McKeown esophagectomy, current or former smoker, and squamous cell histology.

**Conclusion.** Thoracic surgeons participating in The Society of Thoracic Surgeons General Thoracic Surgery Database perform esophagectomy with low morbidity and mortality. McKeown esophagectomy is an independent predictor of combined postoperative morbidity or mortality. Revised predictors for perioperative outcome were identified to facilitate quality improvement processes and hospital comparisons.

# Mortality

- Overall in-hospital mortality/ overall 30-day mortality
- Major risk: pneumonia, age, anastomotic complications
- Minor: ascites, age, diabetes, neoadjuvant therapy, renal dysfunction, hepatic dysfunction
- Lower volume hospital(4-10)/high volume (9-40)

# systemic complications

## Pulmonary complications

pneumonia

COPD exacerbation

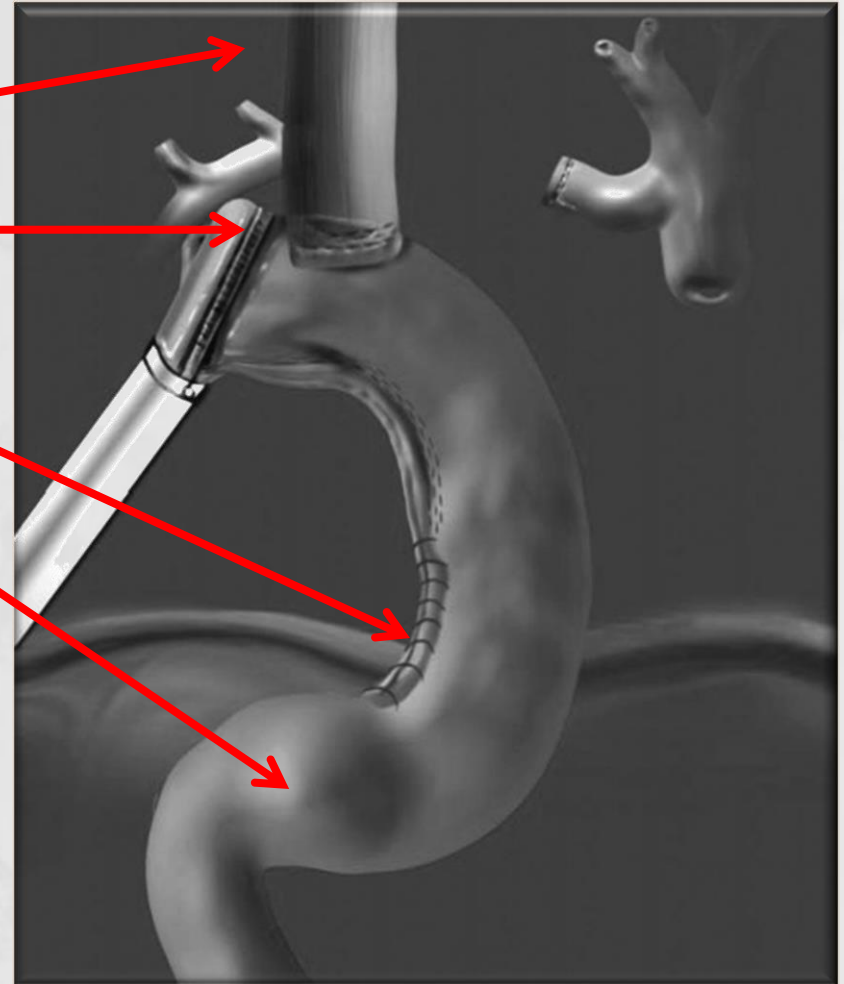
ARDS

pulmonary thromboembolism

- Preop resp rehabilitation
- postop lung expansion maneuver
- oral hygiene, bronchial toilet
- pain management
- special caution on neck incision patient
- High incidence on thoracotomy, low in minimal invasive surgery(MIS)

# Aspiration

recurrent n. injury  
anastomotic stricture  
hiatus narrowing  
pylorus narrowing  
post-extubated state  
regurgitation



# Cardiac

- AF:

esophagectomy and postop AF:

→ significantly higher rates of pul cx,  
anastomotic leaks, mortality rates

- MI:



# Procedure specific complications

- **Conduit complication** (anastomotic leak, ischemia, stricture)- reduced conduit perfusion(upto 70%)
- Nerve injury
- Lymphatic leak(chylothorax)
- Diaphragmic hernia
- Airway injury
- Tracheoesophageal injury
- Splenic injury

# Avoiding Complications -Surgical Parameters

- The conduit(usually stomach) needs to be:
  - Well-vascularized
  - Adequately mobilized (reduce tension)
  - Treated gently
  - Ischemic portion resected
- The anastomosis needs to be:
  - Sufficiently wide
  - Closed securely (water-tight)

# Surgical Factors Proposed as Affecting Anastomosis

- Anatomical Location (**neck, chest**)
  - Physical constraints
    - Space
    - Tension
    - Distance (available proximal esophagus)
- Type of operation (**open vs MIE**)
- Conduit used (whole vs tube)
- Trauma while handling the conduit
- Technique (incorporating mucosa, no excessive sutures)
- Coverage of anastomosis (omentum)
- Surgeon's experience
- Blood loss
- Running suture vs. interrupted vs. 2 layers

# Comparison between different reconstruction routes in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

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## Abstract

**AIM:** To compare postoperative complications and prognosis of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma patients treated with different routes of reconstruction.

**METHODS:** After obtaining approval from the Medical Ethics Committee of the Sun Yat-Sen University Cancer Center, we retrospectively reviewed data from 306 consecutive patients with histologically diagnosed esophageal squamous cell carcinoma who were treated between 2001 and 2011. All patients underwent radical McKeown-type esophagectomy with at least two-field lymphadenectomy. Regular follow-up was performed in our outpatient department. Postoperative complica-

**RESULTS:** The posterior mediastinal and retrosternal reconstruction routes were employed in 120 and 186 patients, respectively. Pulmonary complications were the most common complications experienced during the postoperative period (46.1% of all patients; 141/306). Compared to the retrosternal route, the posterior mediastinal reconstruction route was associated with a lower incidence of anastomotic stricture (15.8% vs 27.4%,  $P = 0.018$ ) and less surgical bleeding ( $242.8 \pm 114.2$  mL vs  $308.2 \pm 168.4$  mL,  $P < 0.001$ ). The median survival time was 26.8 mo (range: 1.6-116.1 mo). Upon uni/multivariate analysis, a lower preoperative albumin level ( $P = 0.009$ ) and a more advanced pathological stage (pT;  $P = 0.006$ ; pN;  $P < 0.001$ ) were identified as independent factors predicting poor prognosis. The reconstruction route did not influence prognosis ( $P = 0.477$ ).

**CONCLUSION:** The posterior mediastinal route of reconstruction reduces incidence of postoperative complications but does not affect survival. This route is recommended for resectable esophageal squamous cell carcinoma.

## Impact of the Route of Reconstruction on Post-operative Morbidity and Malnutrition after Esophagectomy: A Multicenter Cohort Study

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### Abstract

**Background** Reconstruction after esophagectomy is mainly performed through the retrosternum (RS) or posterior mediastinum (PM). However, the best approach is not clear. This study aimed to assess the impact of the route of gastric conduit reconstruction, after esophagectomy for esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC), on post-operative outcomes.

**Methods** We analyzed 298 patients who underwent radical esophagectomy for ESCC at three high volume centers between 2008 and 2009. Among them, the RS was selected in 166 patients and PM in 118; while, the antethoracic route was used in 14 patients. Post-operative morbidity, mortality, and long-term outcome were compared.

**Results** There were no differences between patients of the two routes with respect to operative blood loss (RS:  $753 \pm 519$ , PM:  $748 \pm 414$  g) and post-operative complications, including pulmonary problems (RS: 15 %, PM: 10.2 %) and anastomotic leakage (RS: 9.0 %, PM: 5.1 %); although, the operating time (RS:  $566 \pm 97$ , PM:  $472 \pm 79$  min;  $p < 0.0001$ ) was shorter in the PM group than the RS group. The percentage weight loss after surgery was significantly less in the PM group than the RS group at 1 year (8.6 vs. 11.1 %;  $p = 0.025$ ); although, the percentage at discharge was not different between the groups (PM: 4.9 %, RS: 6.3 %;  $p = 0.072$ ). Multivariate analysis identified pre-operative body weight and the reconstruction route as significant and independent factors associated with 1-year weight loss.

**Conclusions** The results indicate gastric tube reconstruction through the posterior mediastinal route after esophagectomy may relieve post-operative 1-year malnutrition without increasing post-operative complications.

# Minimally Invasive Versus Open Esophagectomy for Esophageal Cancer: A Comparison of Early Surgical Outcomes From The Society of Thoracic Surgeons National Database

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**Background.** Open esophagectomy results in significant morbidity and mortality. Minimally invasive esophagectomy (MIE) has become increasingly popular at specialized centers with the aim of improving perioperative outcomes. Numerous single-institution studies suggest MIE may offer lower short-term morbidity. The two approaches are compared using a large, multi-institutional database.

**Methods.** The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) National Database (v2.081) was queried for all resections performed for esophageal cancer between 2008 and 2011 (n = 3,780). Minimally invasive approaches included both transhiatal (n = 214) and Ivor Lewis (n = 600), and these were compared directly with open transhiatal (n = 1,065) and Ivor Lewis (n = 1,291) procedures, respectively. Thirty-day outcomes were examined using nonparametric statistical testing.

**Results.** Both open and MIE groups were similar in terms of preoperative risk factors. Morbidity and all-cause mortality were equivalent at 62.2% and 3.8%. MIE

was associated with longer median procedure times (443.0 versus 312.0 minutes;  $p < 0.001$ ), but a shorter median length of hospital stay (9.0 versus 10.0 days;  $p < 0.001$ ). Patients who underwent MIE had higher rates of reoperation (9.9% versus 4.4%;  $p < 0.001$ ) and empyema (4.1% versus 1.8%;  $p < 0.001$ ). Open technique led to an increased rate of wound infections (6.3% versus 2.3%;  $p < 0.001$ ), postoperative transfusion (18.7% versus 14.1%;  $p = 0.002$ ), and ileus (4.5% versus 2.2%;  $p = 0.002$ ). Propensity score-matched analysis confirmed these findings. High- and low-volume centers had similar outcomes.

**Conclusions.** Early results from the STS National Database indicate that MIE is safe, with comparable rates of morbidity and mortality as open technique. Longer procedure times and a higher rate of reoperation following MIE may reflect a learning curve.

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# Patient Factors that May Affect Anastomosis

- Nutritional status (albumin/pre-albumin)
- Prior radiation +/-chemotherapy
- Diabetes
- Vascular disease
- Hypotension
- Hypoxemia
- Obesity/Body and neck habitus
- Gender
- Smoking history
- Prior gastric or esophagael surgery

# Anastomotic Methods

- Hand-sewn
- Linear-stapled
- Circular-stapled
- Hybrid



# leaks

- Decreased conduit perfusion(70%) on proximal end of gastric conduit → breakdown, leak, stricture
- Esophageal resection 후 5-40% (mortality: 2-12%)
- Factors
  - ❖ anastomosis technique(hand/stapled/hybrid)
  - ❖ Location of anastomosis(neck vs chest)
  - ❖ Type of conduit(stomach vs colon vs jejunum)
  - ❖ Location of conduit(orthotopic vs heterotopic)

# Predictors of Anastomotic Leak After Esophagectomy: An Analysis of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons General Thoracic Database

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**Background.** Anastomotic leak is an important cause of morbidity and mortality after esophagectomy. Few studies have targeted risk factors for the development of leak after esophagectomy. The purpose of this study is to use The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Database to identify variables associated with leak after esophagectomy.

**Methods.** The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Database was queried for patients treated with esophagectomy for esophageal cancer between 2001 and 2011. Univariate and multivariate analysis of variables associated with an increased risk anastomotic leak was performed.

**Results.** There were 7,595 esophagectomies, with 804 (10.6%) leaks. Thirty-day mortality and length of stay were higher for patients with anastomotic leak. Mortality in patients requiring surgical management was 11.6% (38 of 327) compared with 4.4% (20 of 458) in medically managed leaks ( $p < 0.001$ ). The leak rate was higher in patients with cervical anastomosis compared with those with intrathoracic anastomoses, 12.3% versus 9.3%,

respectively ( $p = 0.006$ ). There was no difference in leak-associated mortality between the two approaches. Factors associated with leak on univariate analysis include obesity, heart failure, coronary disease, vascular disease, hypertension, steroids, diabetes, renal insufficiency, tobacco use, procedure duration greater than 5 hours, and type of procedure ( $p < 0.05$ ). Multivariable regression analysis associated heart failure, hypertension, renal insufficiency, and type of procedure as risk factors for the development of leak ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions.** Anastomotic leak after esophagectomy is an important cause of postoperative mortality and increased length of stay. We have identified important risk factors for the development of esophageal anastomotic leak after esophagectomy. Further studies aimed at risk reduction are warranted.

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*Table 1. Esophagogastric Anastomotic Leak Classification<sup>a</sup>*

Grade	Leak Classification	Definition	Treatment
I	Radiologic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No clinical signs or symptoms</li><li>• Purely radiologic diagnosis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No change in management</li></ul>
II	Clinical minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minor clinical signs (eg, cervical wound inflammation or drainage)</li><li>• Radiographically contained intrathoracic leak</li><li>• Fever, leukocytosis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delay oral intake</li><li>• Antibiotics</li><li>• Wound drainage</li><li>• CT-guided drain placement</li></ul>
III	Clinical major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant anastomotic disruption requiring surgical revision</li><li>• Minor anastomotic disruption with systemic sepsis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Esophageal stent placement</li><li>• Surgical debridement</li><li>• Anastomotic revision</li></ul>
IV	Conduit necrosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduit necrosis necessitating esophageal diversion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduit resection with esophageal diversion</li></ul>

Price et al. Ann thorac surg 2013;95:1154-61

# Leaks

- Cervical(12.3%) > thoracic(9.3%) anastomosis (odds ratio 3.43)
- no mortality difference,
- high morbidity on mediastinal drainage

*Table 6. Association of Anastomotic Location and Technique With Leak*

Anastomotic Location and Technique	Leak n (%)	Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P Value	Overall P Value
Chest, n = 268	16 (6.0)	...		
CS, n = 48	4 (8.3)	1.5 (0.5–5.1)	0.50	...
HS, n = 43	2 (4.6)	0.8 (0.2–3.9)	0.80	0.73
LS, n = 177	10 (5.6)	1.0 (reference)		
MC, n = 0	0	...	...	...
Neck, n = 164	34 (20.7)	...	...	...
CS, n = 0	0	...	...	...
HS, n = 14	9 (64.3)	11.8 (3.3–41.7)	<0.001	...
LS, n = 83	11 (13.2)	1.0 (reference)	...	0.001
MC, n = 67	14 (20.9)	1.7 (0.7–4.1)	0.22	...

CI = confidence interval; CS = circular stapled; HS = hand sewn; LS = linear stapled; MC = modified Collard.

Price et al Ann Thorac Surg 2013;95:1154-1162

# Analysis of 432 Anastomosis

*Table 2. Relation of Esophageal Anastomotic Location and Technique*

Anastomotic Location	CS n (%)	HS n (%)	LS n (%)	MC n (%)	Total n (%)
Chest	48 (11)	43 (10)	177 (41)	0	268 (62)
Neck	0	14 (3)	83 (19)	67 (16)	164 (38)
Total	48 (11)	57 (13)	260 (60)	67 (16)	432

CS = circular stapled; HS = hand sewn; LS = linear stapled; MC = modified Collard.

*Table 4. Relation of Anastomotic Location and Grade of Leak*

Anastomotic Location (n)	Grade I n (%)	Grade II n (%)	Grade III n (%)	Grade IV n (%)	Leak n (%)
Chest (268)	0	3 (1.1)	10 (3.7)	3 (1.1)	16 (5.9)
Neck (164)	2 (1.2)	24 (15)	7 (4.3)	1 (0.6)	34 (21)
Total	2	27	17	4	50

Price et al Ann Thorac Surg 2013;95:1154-1162

# Leaks management

- Thoracic anastomotic leaks are more likely to require re-exploration
- Endoscopic stenting/transluminal vacuum therapy

## Basic principle

- Vulnerable to hypotension
- Adequately drainage(CT for extraluminal collection)
- NG tube and NPO
- Systemic antibiotics(antifungal)

Association of Women Surgeons

# Optimal approach to the management of intrathoracic esophageal leak following esophagectomy: a systematic review



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## KEYWORDS:

Esophagectomy;  
Postoperative  
complications;  
Anastomotic leak;  
Review;  
Systematic;  
Assessment;  
Outcomes

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## Abstract

**BACKGROUND:** Recently, endoscopic interventions (eg, esophageal stenting) have been successfully used for the management of intrathoracic leak. The purpose of this systematic review was to assess the safety and efficacy of techniques used in the management of intrathoracic anastomotic leak.

**DATA SOURCES:** We performed a systematic review of MEDLINE, EMBASE, and PubMed to identify eligible studies analyzing management of intrathoracic esophageal leak following esophagectomy.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Intraoperative anastomotic drain placement was associated with earlier identification and resolution of anastomotic leak (mean 23.4 vs 80.7 days). In addition, reinforcement of the anastomosis with omentoplasty may reduce the incidence of anastomotic leak by nearly 50%. Endoscopic stent placement was associated with leak resolution in 72%; fatal complications were reported, however, and safety remains to be proven. Negative pressure therapy, a potentially useful tool, requires further study. If stenting and wound vacuum are used, undrained mediastinal contamination and persistent leak require surgical intervention.

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# Endoscopic Management of Esophageal Anastomotic Leaks After Surgery for Malignant Disease

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**Background.** Esophageal anastomotic leaks after cancer surgery remain a major cause of morbidity and mortality. Endoscopic interventions, including covered metal stents (cSEMS), clips, and direct percutaneous endoscopic jejunostomy (dPEJ) tubes are increasingly used despite limited published data regarding their utility in this setting. This study aimed to determine the efficacy and safety of a multimodality endoscopic approach to anastomotic leak management after operation for esophageal or gastric cancer.

**Methods.** We performed a retrospective review of prospectively maintained databases of gastric and esophageal operations at our hospital between January 2003 and December 2012. Included patients had an operation for esophageal or gastric cancer, demonstrated evidence of an anastomotic leak at the esophageal anastomosis, and underwent attempted endoscopic therapy. Healing was defined as clinical and radiographic leak resolution.

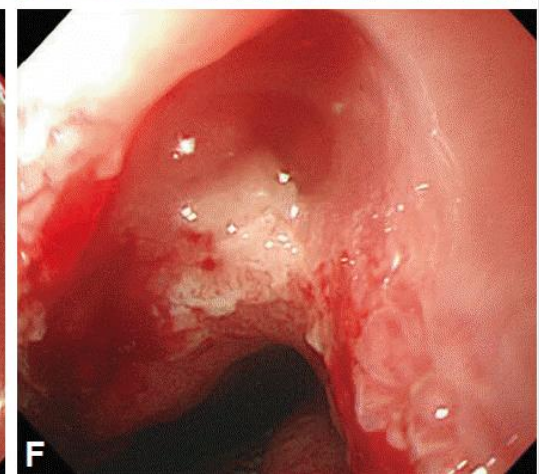
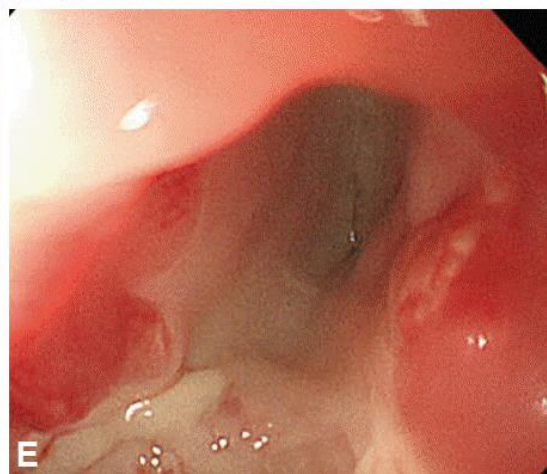
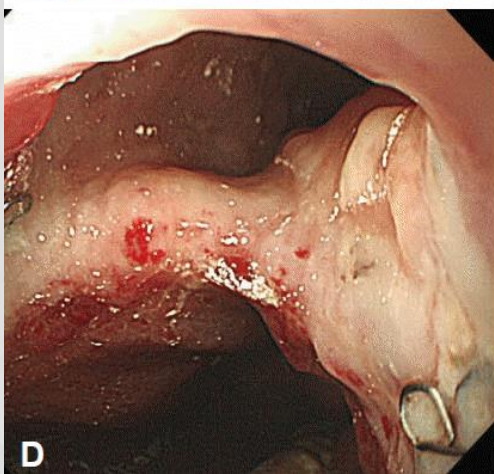
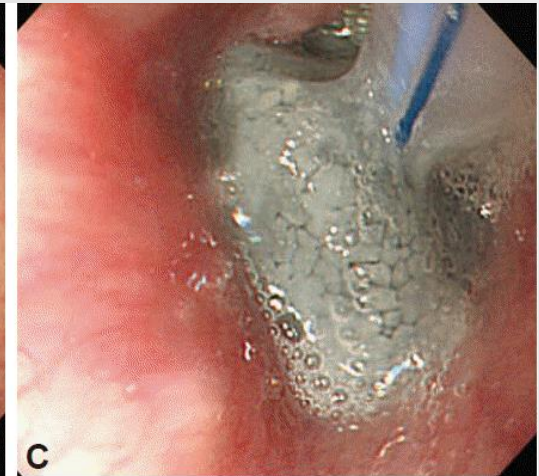
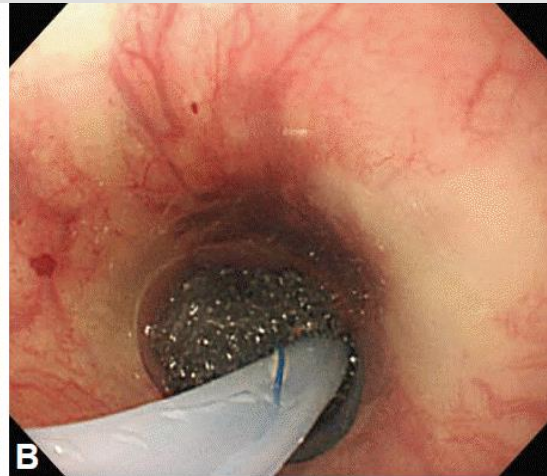
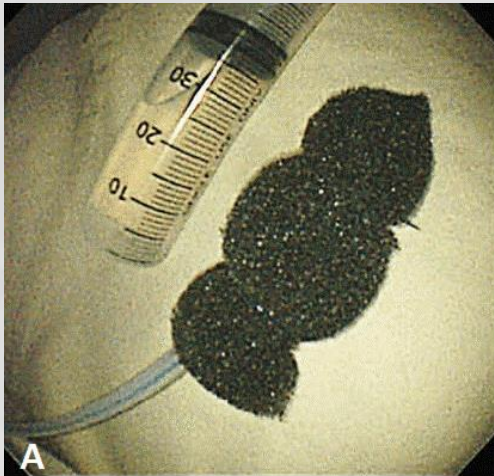
**Results.** Forty-nine patients with leaks underwent endoscopic management. Of the 49 patients, 31 (63%) received cSEMS, 40 (82%) had dPEJ tubes inserted, and 3 (6%) received clips. Twenty-three (47%) patients underwent a combined approach. Overall, 88% of patients achieved healing in a median of 83 days. Twenty-two of 23 patients (96%) who underwent a multimodality endoscopic approach healed. Only 1 patient had a major complication associated with stent erosion into the pulmonary artery, which was successfully treated with operative repair.

**Conclusions.** Esophageal anastomotic leaks after esophageal and gastric cancer operations can be managed successfully and safely with endoscopic therapy. Combining cSEMS for leak control and dPEJ tube placement for nutritional support was highly effective in achieving healing, without the need for surgical repair.

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# Endoscopic Vacuum Therapy



# Conduit ischemia

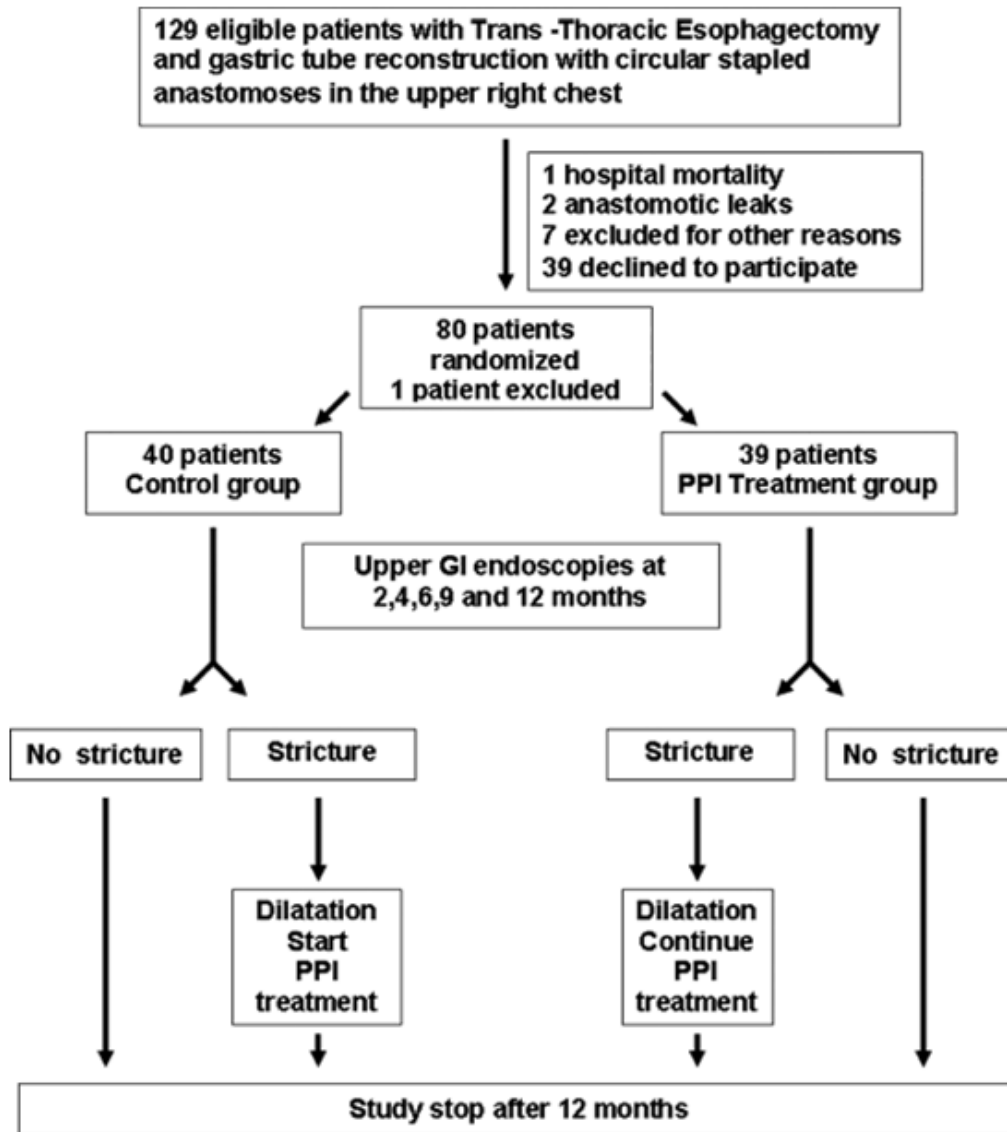
- 9% (minor ~ complete loss)
- Similar on gastric pull up and colon interposition(10.4 vs 7.4%)
- Early endoscopy
- Rapid deteriorating course with evidence of septic shock
- Surgical removal(gastrectomy) and esophageal diversion(gastostomy, adequate drainage, antibiotics, closure of hiatal defect)

# Anastomotic stricture

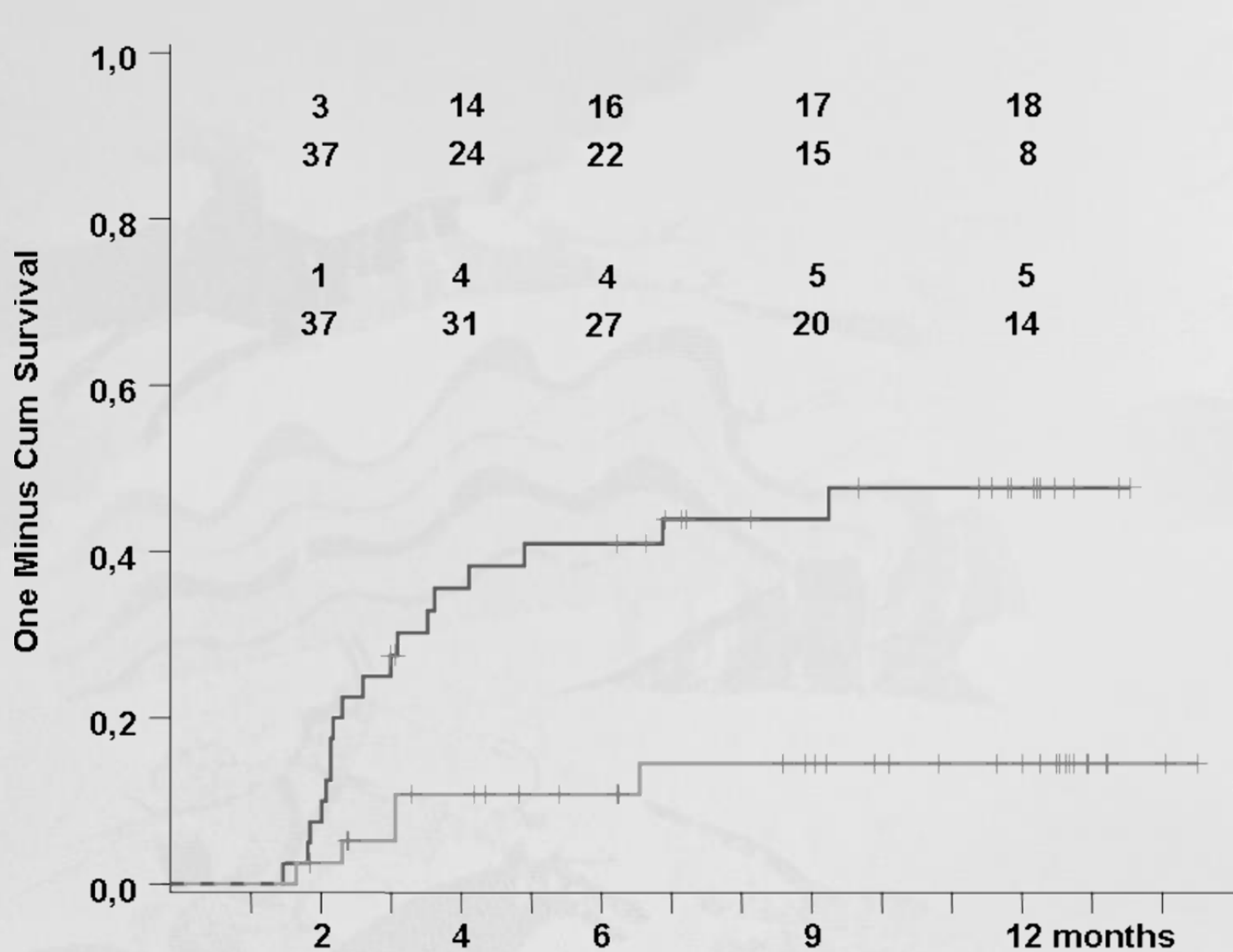
- 9-40%
- Conduit ischemia or recurrent disease
- Dysphagia, odynophagia, aspiration, inadequate dietary intake and malnutrition
- Conduit malperfusion/ischemia or surgical technique, anastomotic leak
- Gastric pull-up > colon
- Modified Collad or hybrid < hand sewn or circular stapler
- Tx: endoscopic dilatation  
local recurrence; surgery, CTx, RTx

# Incidence of Strictures

<u>Orringer 2000</u>	SMA	35%
	HSA (n>1000)	48%
Collard 1998	SMA (1/16)	6.7%
	HSA (10/24)	41.7%
<u>Casson 2002</u>	SMA	7.9%
	HSA	17%
Jo 2006	SMA (1/13)	7.7%
Singh 2001	SMA	19%
	HSA	58%
<u>Ercan 2005</u>	SMA	66%
	HSA	90%
<u>Behzadi 2005</u>	SMA	14.6%
	HSA	34%
<u>Lerut</u>	SMA	32.5%
	HSA	50.0%



Johansen et al. Ann Surg 2009. 250; 667-673

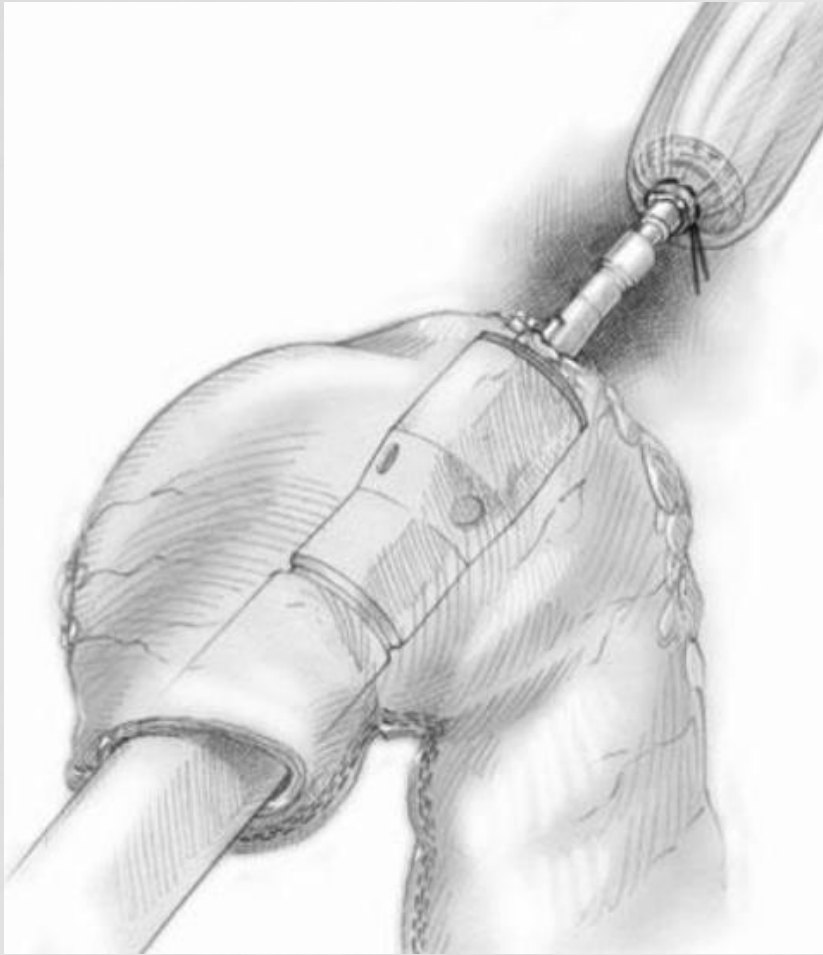


**Control group (n=40):**  
 No of strictures 18  
 Remaining cases 8  
**PPI group (n=39):**  
 No of strictures 5  
 Remaining cases 14

**Control group**  
 18/40 = 45 %

**PPI group**  
 5/39 = 13 %

Log rank test p=0.003





# Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve injury

- Hoarseness, dyspnea, aspiration pneumonia
- Prompt laryngoscopy, swallowing evaluation
- Vocal cord injection
- 51Pt( 41% recover for 1year, 4 recover in 2year)

# Chylothorax

- 0-8% incidence(mortality upto 18%)
- Prophylactic ligation effect ?
- Elimination of enteral nutrition,TPN, octreotide, fluid supply
- >10mL/kg over 5 days

# Postesophagectomy Chylothorax: Incidence, Risk Factors, and Outcomes

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**Background.** Chylothorax is a rare but potentially lethal complication of esophagectomy. This study evaluated the rate of postesophagectomy chylothorax, identified associated risk factors, and compared postoperative outcomes in patients with and without chylothorax.

**Methods.** We reviewed 892 consecutive patients who underwent esophagectomy (1997 to 2008). Preoperative, operative, and postoperative details, including adverse outcomes and mortality, were analyzed.

**Results.** Postesophagectomy chylothorax occurred in 34 patients (3.8%). Chylothorax was significantly associated with 30-day major complications (85% vs 46%;  $p < 0.001$ ), including an increased likelihood of sepsis ( $p = 0.001$ ), pneumonia ( $p = 0.009$ ), reintubation ( $p = 0.002$ ) or reoperation ( $p < 0.001$ ), and death (17.7% vs 3.9%,  $p < 0.001$ ). Median length of stay was 17 vs 8 days ( $p = 0.005$ ). Median time to chylothorax diagnosis was 5 days. Thoracic duct ligation was performed in 21 (62%) at a median

13 days after esophagectomy. Two patients required repeat duct ligation for persistent chylothorax. Squamous cell cancer histology (9 of 34; 26%) was an independent predictor of postoperative chylothorax (odds ratio, 4.18; 95% confidence interval, 1.39 to 12.6). Odds of chylothorax were 36 times greater with average daily chest tube output exceeding 400 mL in the first 6 postoperative days (odds ratio, 35.9; 95% confidence interval, 8.2 to 157.8).

**Conclusions.** Postoperative chylothorax is associated with significant postoperative morbidity and mortality. Patients with squamous cell cancer may be at increased risk. In addition, average daily chest tube output exceeding 400 mL in the early postoperative period should prompt fluid analysis for chylothorax to facilitate early diagnosis and consideration of thoracic duct ligation.

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# Dysphagia

- Mostly mostly anastomotic stricture, also functional
- 65%

# Delayed gastric emptying

- 50%
- truncal vagotomy
- Gastric outlet procedure (pyloromyotomy, pyloroplasty) - Botox

# Reflux

- Disruption, loss of normal antireflux mechanism (LES, angle of His, diap sling)
- Direct anastomosis with no sphincter like mechanism
- Positive intraabdominal/negative intrathoracic pressure
- Impaired conduit motility
- Impaired esophageal remnant motility

# Dumping syndrome

- 50%, vagotomy
- Early onset(10-30min): rapid transit hyperosmolar gastric contents into the small bowel
- Late onset(1-3Hr): hypoglycemia due to profound insulin response to CHO
- Tx: frequency  $\uparrow$ , size  $\downarrow$  of meal
- sugar reduction, fluid restriction, octreotide

# Diaphragmatic hernia

