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Clinical Retrieval via Endoscopy in Esophageal Foreign Body

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Introduction: Esophageal foreign body (FB) occurs more frequently in dogs than in cats due to the indiscriminate eating habits of dogs. The purposes of this study are to summarize the statistical predisposition of the esophageal foreign body patients and to introduce technique of endoscopic retrieval and benefits of it.

Materials and methods: Endoscopy was performed for thirty-two patients diagnosed FB. Endoscopic retrieval was carried out after pre-anesthetic blood screening and radiographic evaluation. Endoscopic equipments include fiberscope (flexible) set and various grasping forceps.

Results: Observed FBs were firm pieces of meat, bones, needle, ball of yarn and crooked acupuncture needle. FBs were mostly pieces of meat and they were lodged in the thoracic inlet and distal esophagus. Most of the lodged FBs were within 3days from ingestion. The highest prevalence was found in Yorkshire Terrier under three years of age. Digestible FBs were pushed into stomach by endoscopic guide in nineteen patients. The other FB patients were treated successfully by endoscopic removal. Grasping forceps (V-shaped, alligator, basket type) were useful to remove FBs. The degrees of esophagitis were variable according tolocation, type of FB and duration of lodgement.Gastrotomy and esophagotomy were not performed in all cases.

Clinical relevance: Endoscopy is desirable in view of the increased morbidity of thoracotomy and the possible complications of esophagotomy, however it needs proper skills of handlers with their time point cooperation. The patients could be released without hospitalization after endoscopy which can relieve sufferings of the patients. In this respect endoscopy is the best therapeutic choice to dissolve FB other than surgical intervention and it can contribute to patient's welfare.

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