Reviewer’s report

Title: Aortoesophageal Fistula and Arch Pseudoaneurysm after Removing of a Swallowed Chicken Bone: A Case Report of One-stage Hybrid Treatment

Version: 0 Date: 02 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Steven Livesey

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This case report discussed about a 40 year old gentleman who presented with an aortoeosophageal fistulae and a pseudo aneurysm of aortic arch one month after removal of a chicken bone from oesophagus. The patient presented on this occasion with chest pain and haematemesis and the diagnosis confirmed by oesophagoscopy and CT aortogram. Treatment included double disc vascular occluder device to occlude pseudo aneurysm and a stent graft in descending aorta and arch followed by exploratory thoracotomy, debridement of the space between oesophagus and aorta and filling up the space with viable omentum.

TEVAR is the first line of treatment to control haemorrhage in aortoeosophageal fistula. The risk lies in placement of a prosthetic device in infected field. But in this case one stage hybrid approach helps to prevent that risk. The application of vascular occlusion device in the neck of pseudo aneurysm was also unique as the proximal landing zone was inadequate.

At the end of the report the author suggested a summarized approach for management of aortoeosophageal fistula. Patients with haemodynamic instability should be treated with endovascular approaches first and then either one stage or subsequent exploratory thoracotomy to plan further treatment. I would suggest depending on the location and extent of aortic involvement patient should have aortic intervention first preferably with TEVAR, if not than surgery as soon as possible upon making diagnosis rather than waiting for haemodynamic instability. As this conditions can deteriorate rapidly once started bleeding.

I feel this case report has its unique approach in management of this complex case and the follow up results were very satisfactory.

It would be useful if the authors could also report longer term follow up of this case in the future.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

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