



## Paterson-Kelly syndrome in a patient with celiac disease

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### ARTICLE INFO

### ABSTRACT

#### Article History

Received 30 / 12 / 2014

Accepted 22 / 04 / 2015

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Paterson-Kelly syndrome is characterized with iron deficiency anemia and esophageal web. Association between Paterson-Kelly and Celiac disease is not well-known. Especially in our country, there is insufficient data about these two diseases. We report a case with a complaint of dysphagia and diagnosed as Paterson-Kelly syndrome with celiac disease. Dysphagia was resolved with bougie dilation, oral iron supplement and gluten free diet. We want to emphasize the importance of screening for celiac disease in patient with dysphagia and iron-deficiency anemia.

#### Keywords:

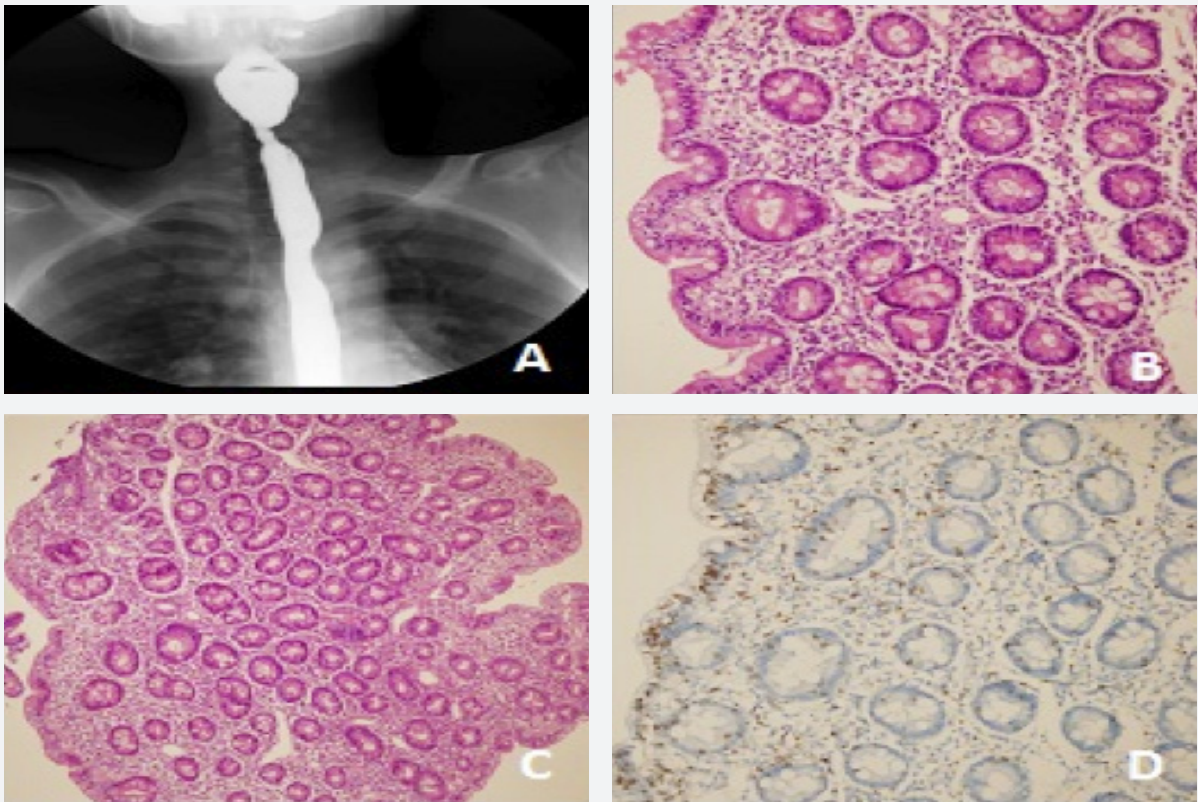
Bougie dilation  
Celiac disease  
Dysphagia  
Iron-deficiency anemia

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### 1. Introduction

Paterson Brown Kelly syndrome (Plummer Vinson syndrome) is described with triad of dysphagia, iron-deficiency anemia and esophageal webs. Loss of iron dependent enzyme in esophageal mucosa cause impaired peristaltism. So web formation occurs in esophagus. So there is a direct association with iron deficiency anemia and esophageal web. It has been known that treatment of iron deficiency resulted with improvement of dysphagia (Klifton et al., 1983). In

celiac disease, iron deficiency anemia was developed due to impaired absorption of iron from duodenum in the 12-18% of patients (Ackerman et al., 1996). There are very few case reports suggesting association between celiac disease and Plummer Vinson syndrome (Dickey and McConnell, 1999; Malhotra et al., 2000, Sood et al., 2005; Sinha et al., 2008). We want to report a case with severe dysphagia and celiac disease who was successfully treated with iron supplements.



**Fig. 1.** A. Pharyngoesophagography shows 1,5 cm length web on proximal esophagus. B-C: Pathologic examination of duodenal biopsy with high field (B) and low (C) power view shows villous atrophy and blunting; D: Lymphocytic infiltration with CD3 positive lymphocytes in surface epithelium of duodenum

## 2. Case report

A forty-two year old woman came to hematology clinic with complaints of exhaustion, dizziness and palpitation. In her story, she had difficulties in swallowing especially with the solid foods for ten years. She have had nausea and vomiting for 15 days. Her difficulty in swallowing was increased recently. She lost 6 kg in the past six months. She has taken oral iron treatment discontinuously for ten years because of anemia. On physical examination she looked pale and angular stomatitis was present. Laboratory examination of the patient showed hemoglobin: 7.9 g/dL, platelets (PLT): 1302 000/uL, iron saturation: 2,64%, serum iron level: 8 µg/dL (37-145), ferritin: 2.28 ng/mL (21.8-274), folic acid: 3,7 ng/mL (4.6-18.7) and vitamine B12: 419 pg/dL (197-866) with normal liver and renal function. Examination of peripheral blood smear showed microcytic hypochromic anemia and excess thrombocytes with no atypical nucleated cells. For further investigation of iron deficiency anemia serologic test was done for celiac disease and antigliadin Ig A was 53.1 U/mL (<12), antigliadin IgG was 62 U/mL (<12) and anti-tissue transglutaminase level was 69 U/L (0-10).

In gastroscopic examination there was narrow part that could not be passed with endoscope in the upper esophagus sphincter localization. In pharyngoesophagography, after the pharyngoesophageal junction there was a web approximately 1.5 cm length on proximal esophagus (Fig. 1A). In another session, dilatation was done with 9-11-13 mm-bougies. On the second part of duodenum there was a "cracked earth view" and biopsy was taken from there. Villus atrophy and blunting were observed via microscopic examination (Fig. 1B,C). There was a lymphocytic infiltration with CD3 positive lymphocytes in surface epithelium (Fig. 1D).

Patient was diagnosed as gluten enteropathy and gluten free diet was started and intravenous ferric hydroxide was given with a dose of 1500mg. After one month of treatment her Hbg was raised to 11.2 gr/dL and her complaints were disappeared.

## 3. Discussion

There is a well-known relationship with iron deficiency anemia and celiac disease (Corazza et al. 1995; Ackerman et al., 1996). In celiac disease, 12-18% of patients have iron-deficiency anemia (Corazza et al., 1995) because of iron malabsorption.

Also iron deficiency anemia is one of the components of Paterson Kelly syndrome. Strong relationship with these two diseases was shown in two case series with 72 and 63 patients (Chisholm et al., 1971; Bredenkamp et al., 1990). But there were few case reports and one prospective study regarding association of esophageal web and celiac disease. In a prospective study from India includes 21 patients with esophageal web and dysphagia. Eighteen of them had iron-deficiency anemia and five (23.8%) of them diagnosed as celiac disease with serology and endoscopic biopsy (Sinha et al., 2008). Duration of dysphagia before diagnosis of celiac disease ranged from six months to 15 years (Sinha et al., 2008). Sood et al. (2003) retrospectively investigated 96 cases with celiac disease and they found that three of them had esophageal web also. In most of case reports and study, none of the patients had chronic diarrhea at presentation (Sood et al., 2005; Sinha et al., 2008).

Celiac disease is misdiagnosed in case with esophageal web because serologic test and endoscopic biopsy is not routinely done. In our case, there was no symptom of diarrhea or skin lesions that indicate celiac disease. But patient had iron deficiency anemia and dysphagia since ten years and symptoms were resistant to iron replacement. Dickey and McConnell (1999) reported two cases with celiac disease and esophageal

web and they were diagnosed as celiac disease after 13 and 9 years from dysphagia begun.

In many patients with Paterson-Kelly syndrome dysphagia is resolved after iron replacement (Hoffman and Jaffe, 1995). But in celiac disease in the absence of gluten free diet, iron deficiency anemia persists. In our patient bougie dilation was done for dysphagia and iron supplements were given orally. Also the importance of gluten free diet was emphasized to the patient. During a follow-up for two months dysphagia did not recur and iron deficiency anemia was improved. In other case reports (Dickey and McConnell, 1999; Malhotra et al., 2000; Sood et al., 2005) and prospective study (Sinha et al., 2008) dysphagia was resolved after bougie dilation and iron replacement with gluten free diet.

Patients with Paterson-Kelly syndrome have a risk of malignancy-carcinoma of the esophagus and postcricoid carcinoma (Novacek, 2006; Ben Gamra et al., 2007). So regular follow up these patients is important and necessary.

#### 4. Conclusions

Celiac disease is usually misdiagnosed in patient with Paterson-Kelly syndrome. So patients with esophageal web and iron deficiency anemia should be investigated for celiac disease even if there is no diarrhea or skin manifestation of celiac disease.

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