

Special Article - Cancer Rehabilitation

Clinical Images in Medicine

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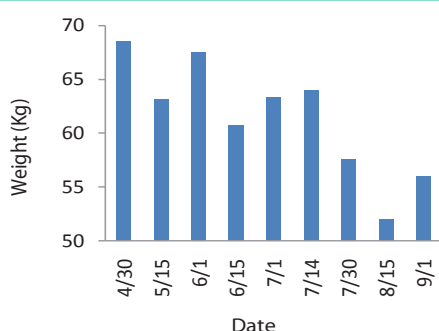
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Clinical Image

A 70-year-old male with history diabetes mellitus, gout, hypertension, coronary heart disease (CHD) underwent coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) in April 2013. Post operatively patient was found to have pancytopenia, work-up led to the diagnosis of Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Patient underwent two cycles of chemotherapy, and presented with failure to thrive 7/30/13. Patient's weight loss (Panel A) led to an investigation of his swallow. His modified barium swallow study on 8/1/13 showed that the patient had multiple episodes of penetration with the thin liquid barium at the level of the cords. He was insensate to this until the material started to fall below the vocal cords, then the patient did cough and cleared the material. Speech pathologist recommended tube feeding



Panel A: Text Here.



Panel B: Text Here.



Panel C: Text Here.

and nectar thick liquids for pleasure only. Sagittal view of neck during swallow study (Panel B) and subsequent CT of the neck (Panel C) showed large anterior cervical osteophytes compressing the posterior pharyngeal wall. He underwent percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy placement 8/13/13 and was ultimately discharged to home after acute rehabilitation stay. Anterior cervical osteophytes of this magnitude are quite rare and are sometimes associated with Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hyperostosis [1] as in this case or Ankylosing Spondylitis [2].

References

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2. Albayrak I, Bağcı S, Sallı A, Kucuksen S, Uğurlu H. A rare cause of dysphagia: compression of the esophagus by an anterior cervical osteophyte due to ankylosing spondylitis. *Korean J Intern Med.* 2013; 28: 614-618.