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Summary

A RARE AND UNEXPECTED CAUSE OF DYSPHAGIA IN A 61-YEAR-OLD MALE: DIFFUSE IDIOPATHIC SKELETAL HYPEROSTOSIS (DISH) (“FORESTIER SYNDROME”)

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Oesophagus

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A 61-year-old male with progressive oropharyngeal dysphagia was diagnosed with diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH) causing extrinsic compression, successfully treated with surgery.

KEY POINTS

- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy revealed hypopharyngeal sub-stenosis requiring a paediatric endoscope to pass through, while manometry showed an unspecific triple pressure trace at the upper oesophageal sphincter suggesting extrinsic compression.
- A multidisciplinary team excluded thyroid-related determinants and other common causes of dysphagia.
- Neck-column CT scan revealed DISH (Forestier Syndrome) with flowing ossifications along the anterior longitudinal ligament of at least four contiguous vertebrae with preserved inter-articular disc height and absence of apophyseal joints.
- Surgical management resulted in complete resolution of symptoms.
- The authors state that clinicians should consider extra-oesophageal conditions, especially rare ones, in the diagnostic work-up of unexplained dysphagia.

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