MULTIDISCIPLINARY TREATMENT OF A CHRONIC TRACHEOESOPHAGEAL FISTULA

Ivo Boskoski

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A 67-year-old male with COVID-19-related tracheoesophageal fistula was successfully treated with an Amplatzer atrial septal occluder after failed surgical and endoscopic suturing attempts.

KEY POINTS

- The patient developed a 30 mm tracheoesophageal fistula from continuous cuff overpressure during orotracheal intubation for COVID-19 respiratory insufficiency.
- Initial surgical treatment and subsequent endoscopic suturing with Apollo Overstitch (repeated after 5 days) both failed to close the fistula.
- A multidisciplinary team placed an Amplatzer atrial septal occluder, which successfully closed the fistula and allowed weaning from intubation.
- At 12 months follow-up, the patient is completely autonomous, eats without difficulty, and is in excellent clinical condition with the device remaining in place.
- This case may interest clinicians managing complex tracheoesophageal fistulas refractory to conventional surgical and endoscopic approaches.

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