A UK BASED RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS PRESENTING AS AN EMERGENCY WITH FOREIGN BODY IN THE OESOPHAGUS

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A national retrospective study of 10,417 emergency admissions for foreign body in the oesophagus in England (2008-2019) found that while 74.7% underwent endoscopy, only 18% had biopsies taken to exclude eosinophilic oesophagitis.

KEY POINTS

- Among patients admitted under ENT (52% of total), only 11.9% received biopsy compared with 29.5% of those admitted under General Medicine, despite guidelines recommending biopsy to exclude eosinophilic oesophagitis in food bolus obstruction.
- Endoscopy and biopsy were more likely in males, older patients aged 61-70, the least deprived, later diagnosis years, and those admitted under General Medicine or Gastroenterology rather than ENT.
- Only 32% of patients received outpatient follow-up within 12 months, with gastroenterology referral rates of 30% for General Medicine admissions versus 12% for ENT admissions.
- The authors conclude that management pathways require redesign and that food bolus obstruction should be managed under General Medicine unless the airway is impaired.
- This material is relevant for gastroenterologists, general physicians, and ENT specialists involved in emergency management of oesophageal foreign bodies.

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