

RARE NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATION AFTER ENDOSCOPIC VARICEAL LIGATION

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Poster

Oesophagus

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A 43-year-old man with cirrhosis developed brain abscesses and ventriculitis one week after endoscopic variceal ligation, subsequently found to have iatrogenic esophageal perforation with mediastinal abscess.

KEY POINTS

- One week post-EVL, the patient presented with fever, headaches, psychomotor retardation, and focal motor seizures; cerebrospinal fluid analysis confirmed CNS infection and imaging showed multiple brain abscesses and ventriculitis.
- Chest CT after one month revealed a 5 cm mediastinal abscess with esophageal fistulization, compatible with iatrogenic esophageal perforation following EVL.
- The patient completed several weeks of antibiotics and parenteral nutrition with normalization of neurological status and resolution of brain lesions.
- The authors recommend considering CNS infection in the differential diagnosis of neurological manifestations in cirrhotic patients who underwent recent procedures, noting that focal deficits are atypical for hepatic encephalopathy.
- This case is relevant for gastroenterologists and hepatologists managing cirrhotic patients undergoing endoscopic variceal therapy.

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