

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Staging of black esophagus

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To the Editor

I read with great interest the article by Dr. Eren et al on black esophagus (1). The authors describe another case of acute esophageal necrosis in a young patient with a perforated duodenal ulcer. The discussion of autopsy findings and clinical presentation is largely focused around published medical literature. However, it is important to point out that the histological appearance of the disease as detailed in Table 1 is a copy (without appropriate credit) of our previously published in Journal of Gastroenterology Table "Endoscopic and pathologic staging of acute esophageal necrosis" – an original and novel staging system to characterize a natural history of the disease (2). I believe it should be appropriately and clearly referenced in the text.

I think that it should also be pointed out that the underlying mechanism responsible for acute esophageal necrosis has been previously presented in the medical literature and should have been mentioned by the authors in their discussion. It is commonly

multifactorial, related to an ischemic phenomenon, a chemical injury from the gastric contents, and a compromised esophageal mucosal defense system (2, 3).

Although rare, an acute esophageal necrosis remains an important medical condition in clinical gastroenterology, and familiarity with this disease is important to a good clinician.

References

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