Achalasia is an oesophageal motility disorder characterized by aperistalsis of the oesophageal body and lack of relaxation of the lower sphincter.

Rare condition affecting both sexes and all age groups with highest incidence in the seventh decade.

Caused by loss of inhibitory ganglion cells in the myenteric plexus and can be primary (idiopathic) or secondary due to Chaga’s disease, malignancy etc.

Treatment includes pneumatic dilatation, myotomy and oesophagectomy if unresponsive to rest of the treatment.

### Introduction

#### Case History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case 1</th>
<th>Case 2</th>
<th>Case 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>24/Male, k/c/o achalasia cardia</td>
<td>47/Female, dysphagia for solids and liquids x 2yrs</td>
<td>75/Female, k/c/o achalasia cardia</td>
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<td>- Previous anterior fundoplication and cardiomyotomy done.</td>
<td>- Underwent pneumatic dilatation complicated by oesophageal tear.</td>
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<td>- Continued to have dysphagia and vomiting even after 2 months.</td>
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#### Investigations:

- Endoscopy, Manometry and Barium Swallow showed diluted (sigmoid) oesophagus in all cases.
- CT scan (Case 3): Oesophageal wall tear, consolidation and collapse of left lung field with empyema.

#### Surgery

- Transhiatal oesophagectomy with oesophago-gastric anastomosis was done in all cases.

#### Gross

- Dilated oesophagus with wall thickening and mucosal irregularity

#### Microscopy

- Marked hypertrophy of muscularis mucosa
- Submucosal lymphoid infiltrate
- Inflammation of myentric plexus and degenerating ganglion cells in muscularis propria
- Hypertrophied nerve bundles

#### Follow Up

- Complete post-operative recovery in two patients.
- Third patient died due to oesophageal tear leading to mediastinitis, peritonitis and empyema of lung detected at autopsy.
- Known disorder but infrequently seen in surgical pathology.
- Has a long term risk of oesophageal malignancy.

#### Discussion

- Known disorder but infrequently seen in surgical pathology.
- Has a long term risk of oesophageal malignancy.

#### References