

UNUSUAL ENDOSCOPIC MANIFESTATIONS IN ESOPHAGUS

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Esophagoscopy plays a pivotal role in the diagnostic approach to esophageal diseases, providing direct visualization of the esophageal lumen and mucosa. This endoscopic modality is indispensable for identifying a wide range of pathological conditions, including common diseases such as esophagitis, strictures, neoplasms, varices, and Barrett's esophagus. Moreover, esophagoscopy proves invaluable in detecting uncommon and rare esophageal abnormalities that may elude other diagnostic methods. These include viral infections (e.g., herpes simplex esophagitis and cytomegalovirus esophagitis), structural anomalies such as esophageal diverticula and ectopic sebaceous glands, and motility disorders like achalasia. Additionally, it aids in diagnosing inflammatory and autoimmune conditions, such as eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) and Behçet's disease, which can present with characteristic mucosal alterations.

Furthermore, esophagoscopy facilitates the recognition of infectious granulomatous diseases like tuberculosis, as well as rare benign and malignant lesions, including esophageal papilloma. The procedure also assists in identifying life-threatening conditions such as bronchoesophageal and aortoesophageal fistulas, which may present with subtle mucosal changes or active bleeding. Extraluminal compressions due to mediastinal lymphadenopathy or masses are also discernible through careful endoscopic evaluation, offering clues to underlying mediastinal pathology. As part of a comprehensive diagnostic framework, esophagoscopy is complemented by meticulous history taking, radiological imaging (such as barium swallow or esophagography), and cross-sectional modalities (CT and MRI) to delineate structural, motility, and extraluminal abnormalities. In light of its unparalleled capacity for direct mucosal inspection, targeted biopsy, and identification of atypical presentations, esophagoscopy remains the cornerstone of diagnostic assessment in esophageal diseases, guiding accurate diagnosis and facilitating optimal clinical management.