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Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy: An Adjuvant Treatment Modality for Chemo-Radiation Induced Hemorrhagic Gastritis

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Although enteritis is a relatively frequent complication seen in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy and radiotherapy, involvement of the stomach is very rare. Injury to the stomach from such therapy results in a form of hemorrhagic gastritis characterized by acute vasculopathy which may progress to obliterative endarteritis with mucosal ischemia and ulceration. This leads to significant gastric bleeding and is usually refractory to treatment. We report a case of chemo-radiation induced hemorrhagic gastritis in the pulled up stomach following esophagectomy in a patient with esophageal cancer. The patient required 25 units of blood transfused over a period of 6 weeks. Through this case we want to highlight this extremely rare and life threatening complication which is refractory to standard medical and endoscopic treatment but completely resolves with hyperbaric oxygen therapy.