Esophageal duplication cysts are benign, asymptomatic anomalies of foregut formation. We report a case of esophageal duplication cyst with esophageal squamous cancer. An upper endoscopy visualized with esophageal scan disclosed a stenotic lesion in the lower esophagus. Computed tomography images revealed a cystic mass in the inferior mediastinum, which was on the right wall of the esophagus. The postoperative pathology report confirmed the diagnosis of esophageal squamous cancer (ulcer type) and esophageal duplication cyst with calcification.

Accepted for publication Jan 4, 2013.
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Comment

The first description of esophageal duplication, in 1711, is credited to Blasius [1]. Although esophageal duplication constitutes only 0.5% to 2.5% of all esophageal tumors [4], it is the second most common duplication of the alimentary tract after ileal duplication. The complications include obstruction, infection, hemorrhage, malignancy, or mediastinitis caused by rupture.

Esophageal duplication cysts are rare anomalies resulting from a foregut budding error during the third to the sixth week of embryonic development [5]. Several imaging techniques have been used in the diagnosis of esophageal duplication, such as chest roentgenology, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and barium examination [6].

The preferred treatment for esophageal duplication cysts is complete surgical resection [7], the location of cysts determined our surgical approach (transthoracic or transabdominal). Cysts above the lower third of the esophagus may not be accessible to the laparoscopic approach. Now, in most cases, a minimally invasive approach, such as thoracoscopy and laparoscopy, is preferred because it provides excellent exposure, a short time in the hospital, minimal postoperative discomfort, and fast recovery.

Although malignancy of esophageal cysts is extremely rare, we needed to pay it enough attention. Adenocarcinoma is the most common histologic characteristic of malignant transformation [8]. In this case, no direct relationship could be found between esophageal cancer and esophageal duplication cyst, through the adjacent tissues and pathology report, But it is rare for both diseases occur simultaneously.

References