OLYMPUS

Case Report

Bronchoscopic Management of Upper Airway Obstruction by Aspirated Mashed Potatoes

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> This case underscores the critical role of bronchoscopy in diagnosing and managing upper airway obstruction and the importance of **H-SteriScope™ Single-use Flexible Bronchoscopes** for their reliability and sterility in emergent situations
>
> *– Dr. Ashey Ferraro*

Patient Information

- Age/Sex: 77-year-old female
- Chief Complaint: Increasing respiratory distress
- Physician: Ashley Ferraro, DO, FCCP
- Facility: Liberty Hospital – Liberty, Missouri

Clinical History

A 77-year-old female was admitted to Liberty Hospital with worsening respiratory distress and was urgently intubated upon arrival in the Emergency Department (ED). The patient was suspected to have aspirated mashed potatoes. Initial imaging via CT scan did not reveal any foreign bodies within the lungs but identified a suspicious “pocket of fluid” in the paratracheal/ vocal cord region.

Procedure Details

Dr. Ashley Ferraro, the attending physician, was present during the extubation when the patient immediately experienced significant pulmonary distress. Recognizing the urgency, Dr. Ferraro performed a bronchoscopy using the **H-SteriScope™ Single-use Flexible Bronchoscope** model BCV1-M2 – Normal (4.9 mm OD, 2.2 WC), along with the **FB-221D.A Biopsy Forceps** wich is an Alligator Jaw-Step with Needle instrument.

During bronchoscopy, a solid, mass-like structure was visualized in the upper airway. This mass appeared to dynamically move with the patient’s respiratory cycle, causing intermittent obstruction upon exhalation. Dr. Ferraro utilized the biopsy forceps to obtain tissue samples of the mass for pathological examination to elucidate its composition and etiology.

Continued on next page.

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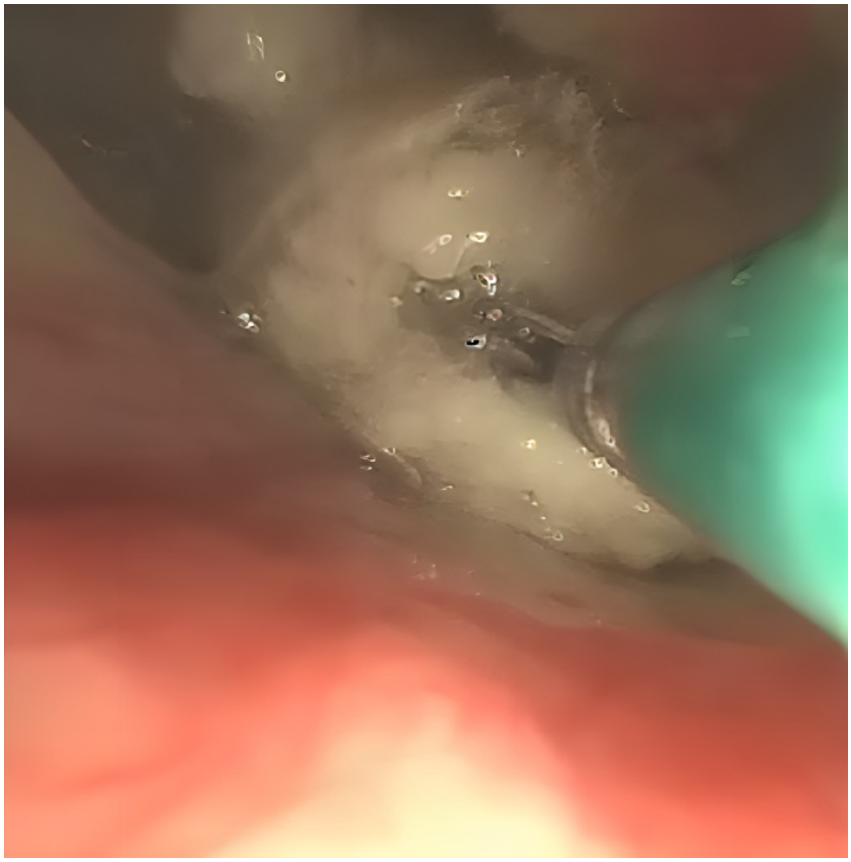
Procedure Outcome

Histopathological analysis of the biopsied tissue confirmed the presence of mashed potatoes that had been present in the airway for an extended period, causing them to harden and form a mass-like obstruction. Following bronchoscopic intervention, the patient's respiratory status improved, and subsequent management focused on supportive care and close monitoring. The pathological findings guided ongoing treatment decisions to prevent recurrent airway obstruction.



Dr Ashley Ferraro, DO, FCCP

Dr Ashley Ferraro is a pulmonology specialist in Liberty, MO and has over 20 years of experience in the medical field. She graduated from University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School in 2003. She is affiliated with Cox Medical Center South. She is accepting new patients.

Dr. Ashley Ferraro is a paid consultant of Olympus. All images and/or videos, unless otherwise cited, were provided by Dr. Ferraro. Content within this document is based off of her experience and professional opinions and are hers alone.

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