Question 44 – June 3

You are consulted for coffee-grounds emesis on a patient in the medical ICU. He is a 60-year-old male admitted with sepsis. In addition, ICU nurses have attempted NGT placement but have been unsuccessful therefore you are asked to assist endoscopically. EGD is performed, and the following is seen:

Which of the following statement is TRUE regarding this condition?

A. It is an incidental finding and NGT can be inserted without reservation.
B. Up to a quarter of patients can develop strictures that will require dilation.
C. It is most commonly found in the upper esophagus.
D. Both IV and PO antifungals are equally efficacious.

Answer: B
Acute esophageal necrosis, otherwise known as “necrotizing esophagitis” or “black esophagus”. If patients survive, esophageal strictures can be common (10–25%) and generally occur as early as 1 to 2 weeks after the initial diagnosis. The strictures may be refractory and require serial endoscopies with long-term dilation programs.