

Question 25 – Week of May 28

47 year old female presents with heartburn well controlled on nexium 40mg twice daily and a mild anemia. Patient underwent routine upper endoscopy and identified the following finding (Figure 1). What is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Esophagitis Dissecans
- B. Esophageal Candidiasis
- C. Inlet Patch
- D. Eosinophilic Esophagitis
- E. Glycogenic Acanthosis

Figure 1:



Answer: A

Esophagitis Dissecans is a rare disorder characterized with the appearance of peeling esophageal mucosa (white strips on endoscopy – see Figure). Patients may present with dysphagia, reflux symptoms or have no esophageal symptoms whatsoever. There is no known clinical consequence of this disorder and some have advocated use of proton pump inhibitor therapy to help with healing, but this has not been substantiated. There has been some association with smoking, certain medications, skin conditions like pemphigus, physical trauma and immune suppression. However the pathophysiology of this condition remains unclear. This continues to be a rare disorder that needs identification of more cases to better understand its natural history and clinical presentation.

Reference:

Carmack SW, Vemulapalli R, Spechler SJ, Genta RM. Esophagitis Dissecans Superficialis (“Sloughing esophagitis”) A Clinicopathologic Study of 12 cases.