

A patient undergoes emergent endoscopy after resuscitation in the ICU. A large grape-like cluster of gastric varices is noted. There are no esophageal varices or other bleeding lesions noted. The bleeding gastric varix is injected with cyanoacrylate and hemostasis is achieved. Which of the following would you recommend to reduce the risk of recurrent bleeding in this patient?

- a. Endoscopic band ligation of gastric varices to obliteration
- b. Urgent TIPS placement
- c. Nadolol titrated to achieve a pulse rate of less than 60 bpm
- d. Splenectomy
- e. Liver transplantation

ANSWER: D. Splenectomy

Explanation: Although this patient has obvious alcohol misuse, there is no firm evidence that he has cirrhosis. Splenic vein thrombosis may result as a complication of alcoholic pancreatitis. The presence of isolated gastric varices should prompt an evaluation for splenic vein thrombosis and, if present, splenectomy.