

Question 32 – March 10

A 53 year old woman with significant iron deficiency anemia undergoes an unremarkable endoscopy and colonoscopy. Appropriately for her anemia, she undergoes a capsule endoscopy to evaluate for an occult source of blood loss. Four hours after capsule ingestion, she calls her gastroenterologist to complain of chest burning and tightness. An x-ray is obtained. **See Figure 1.** Which of the following is a contraindication for capsule endoscopy?



- A. Gastroparesis
- B. Presence of a permanent pacemaker
- C. Coumadin use
- D. History of intestinal resection

Answer: B

The x-ray study above appears to show a capsule retained within the distal esophagus. Therefore, this patient most likely has an esophageal motility disorder given that her prior endoscopy was unremarkable. Contraindications for capsule endoscopy include patients with known or suspected GI obstruction, strictures, or fistulas based on clinical presentation or pre-procedure testing, patients with cardiac pacemakers or other implanted electromechanical devices, or patients with swallowing disorders.

References:

1. Gastrointestinal Endoscopy 2006;63(4):539-545