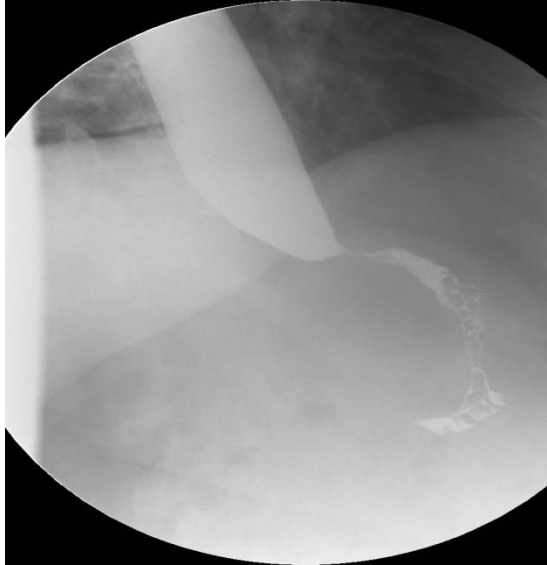


Question 6 – Week of January 16

A patient presents with dysphagia and a barium esophagram shows the following in image 1. After having this condition for more than 10 years, which gastrointestinal malignancy does this patient have increased risk of developing?

Image 1:



- A. Gastric adenocarcinoma
- B. Adenocarcinoma of the esophagus
- C. Squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus
- D. MALT lymphoma
- E. No increased cancer risk

Answer: C

The patient has classic findings of achalasia, which is a dilated body of the esophagus then tapering to a “bird’s peak”. Achalasia has been associated with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the esophagus. Cancer may arise secondary to chronic food stasis, leading to chronic inflammation, epithelial hyperplasia, multifocal dysplasia, and eventually SCC. After ten years of having the disease annual upper endoscopy is suggested.

Reference:

I Leeuwenburgh et al. Long-Term Esophageal Cancer Risk in Patients With Primary Achalasia: A Prospective Study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2010; 105:2144–2149