

Question 9 – Week of October 1

A 64 year old woman presents to her primary care MD with fatigue and dyspnea on exertion. A CBC is obtained and her hemoglobin is found to be 9.4 g/dL. The patient is subsequently found to be guaiac positive and is referred to her gastroenterologist for further evaluation. An upper endoscopy is performed and shows this antral lesion:



All of the following medical conditions are associated with this finding except:

- A. Hepatitis C with cirrhosis
- B. Sarcoidosis
- C. Systemic sclerosis
- D. Hypertension induced chronic kidney disease

Answer: B

The finding on the image is GAVE or gastric antral vascular ectasia. GAVE is most commonly associated with portal hypertension, autoimmune disorders and chronic kidney disease. There has never been an association between GAVE and sarcoidosis.

GAVE is seen twice as frequently in women as men and usually presents in the 7th or 8th decade of life. Patient will most commonly present with a mild anemia or melena. The classic findings for GAVE include linear streaks of erythematous dilated blood vessels in stripes directing toward the pylorus. It can be diagnosed by biopsy showing dilated capillaries in the lamina propria with fibrin thrombi. The cause of GAVE is unclear but treatments with thermal therapies such as argon plasma coagulation (APC) and bipolar probes will treat this condition.

Reference:

Sleisenger and Fordtran's Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease:
Pathophysiology/Diagnosis/Management 9th Edition. Chapter 19, 35 and 90