

Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding in Intensive Care Unit

Thesis

Submitted for the Partial Fulfillment of Masters Degree
In ICU

By

Osama AbuRaya ElDesokey
M.B.B.,Ch - Ain Shams University

Under Supervision of

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Saeed Abd El Aziz

Professor of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Unit
Faculty of Medicine-Ain Shams University

Dr. Milad Ragaiey Zikry

Lecturer of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Unit
Faculty of Medicine-Ain Shams University

Dr. Mahmoud Hassan Mohamed

Lecturer of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Unit
Faculty of Medicine-Ain Shams University

**Faculty of Medicine
Ain Shams University
2013**



Acknowledgements

First and foremost, thanks to **Allah the Almighty** to whom I relate any success in achieving any work in my life.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to **Prof. Dr., Mohammed Saeed Abd El Aziz** Professor of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Unit, Faculty of Medicine-Ain Shams University, for his continuous supervision, constructive encouragement, illuminating guidance as well as his support throughout this work. It was a great honor and a chance of a lifetime to work with him.

I am greatly honored to express my endless gratitude to **Dr. Milad Ragaiey Zikry** Lecturer of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Unit, Faculty of Medicine-Ain Shams University, for the time he spent and the effort he paid in helping me. His creative directions and valuable cooperation helped me to accomplish this work.

I would like also to thank **Dr. Mahmoud Hassan Mohamed**, Lecturer of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Unit Faculty of Medicine-Ain Shams University, for his efforts and time he spent in discussing this research.

My gratitude and thanks to all professors, staff and colleagues and patient of ICU & Anaesthesia Department for their cooperative help.





DEDICATION

*I would like to dedicate this thesis to my **Father** and my **Sunshine Mother**; to them I will never find adequate words to express my gratitude.*

*Also my **beloved family**, especially my **wife** for dealing so patiently, tactfully during this work and to my lovely kids*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قالوا

لَسْبَدَانِكَ لَا نَعْلَمُ لَنَا
إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ
الْعَلِيمُ الْعَظِيمُ

صدق الله العظيم

سورة البقرة الآية: ٣٢

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List of Abbreviations

AVMs	: Arteriovenous malformations
GAVE	: Gastric antral vascular ectasia
GE	: Gastero-esophageal
GI	: Gastrointestinal
LES	: Lower esophageal sphincter
NSAID	: Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
UES	: Upper esophageal sphincter
UGIB	: Upper gastrointestinal bleeding

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Introduction

Acute gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding is a potentially life-threatening abdominal emergency that remains a common cause of hospitalization. Upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB) is defined as bleeding derived from a source proximal to the ligament of Treitz (*Fallah et al., 2000*).

The diagnosis and therapy for nonvariceal upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB) has evolved since the late 20th century from passive diagnostic esophagogastroduodenoscopy with medical therapy until surgical intervention was needed, to active intervention with endoscopic techniques followed by angiographic and surgical approaches if endoscopic therapy fails (*Pongprasobchai et al., 2009*).

The underlying mechanisms of nonvariceal bleeding involve either arterial hemorrhage, such as in ulcer disease and mucosal deep tears, or low-pressure venous hemorrhage, as in telangiectasias and angioectasias. In variceal hemorrhage, the underlying pathophysiology is due to elevated portal pressure transmitted to esophageal and gastric varices and resulting in portal gastropathy (*Straube et al., 2009*).

In North America in patients with UGIB and comorbid illness it was found that comorbid illness, rather than actual bleeding, is the major cause of death. Comorbid illness has been

noted in 50.9% of patients, with similar occurrences in males (48.7%) and females (55.4%). One or more comorbid illnesses have been noted in 98.3% of mortalities in UGIB; in 72.3% of patients, comorbid illnesses have been noted as the primary cause of death (*Yavorski et al., 2009*).

Significant comorbidities have become more prevalent as the patient population with UGIB has become progressively older. In a retrospective chart review by Yavorski et al, 73.2% of deaths occurred in patients older than 60 years. Rebleeding or continued bleeding is associated with increased mortality; therefore, differentiating the patient with a low probability of rebleeding and little comorbidity from the patient at high risk for rebleeding with serious comorbidities is imperative (*Yavorski et al., 2009*).

Aim of the Work

To review causes and treatment and ICU management of upper GIT bleeding.

Chapter (1)

Anatomy

Anatomy of the Oesophagus

I. GROSS ANATOMY OF THE OESOPHAGUS

The esophagus is a 25-cm long muscular tube that connects the pharynx to the stomach. The length of the esophagus at birth varies between 8 and 10 cm and measures about 19 cm at age 15 years (*Gray et al., 2008*).

The esophagus extends from the lower border of the cricoid cartilage (at the level of the sixth cervical vertebra) to the cardiac orifice of the stomach at the side of the body of the 11th thoracic vertebra. The upper limit in the newborn infant is found at the level of the fourth or fifth cervical vertebra, and it ends higher, at the level of the ninth thoracic vertebra (fig. 1) (fig.2) (*Gray et al., 2008*).

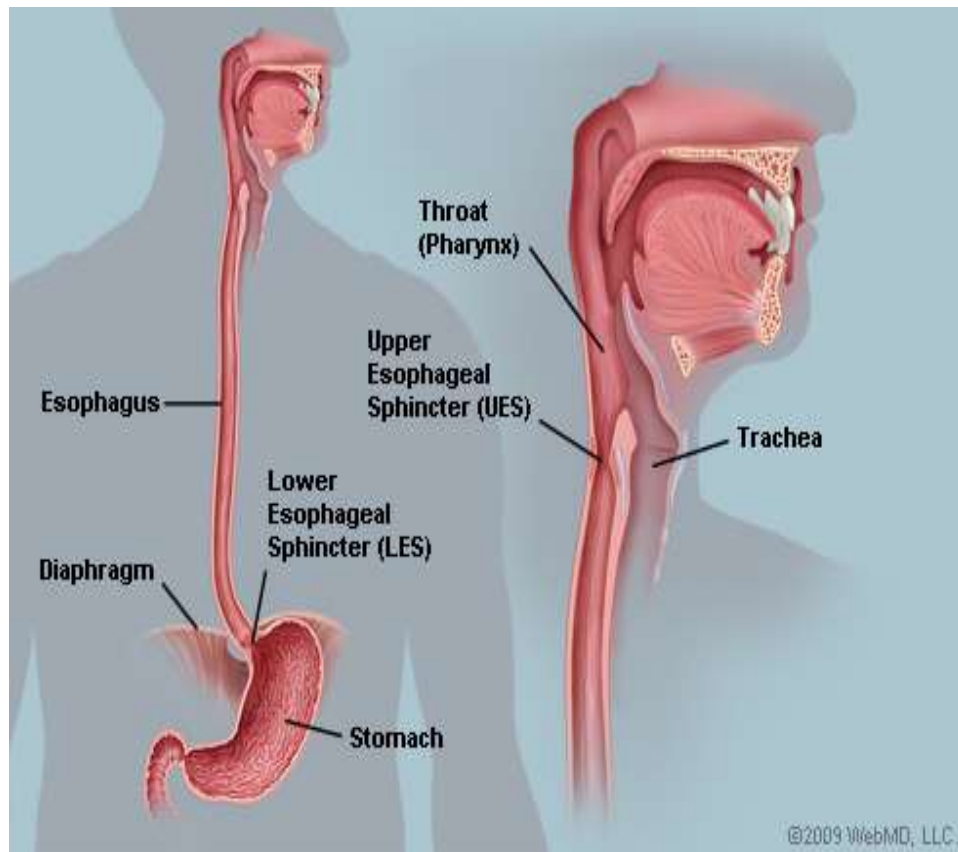


Fig. (1): The oesophagus (*Gray et al., 2008*).

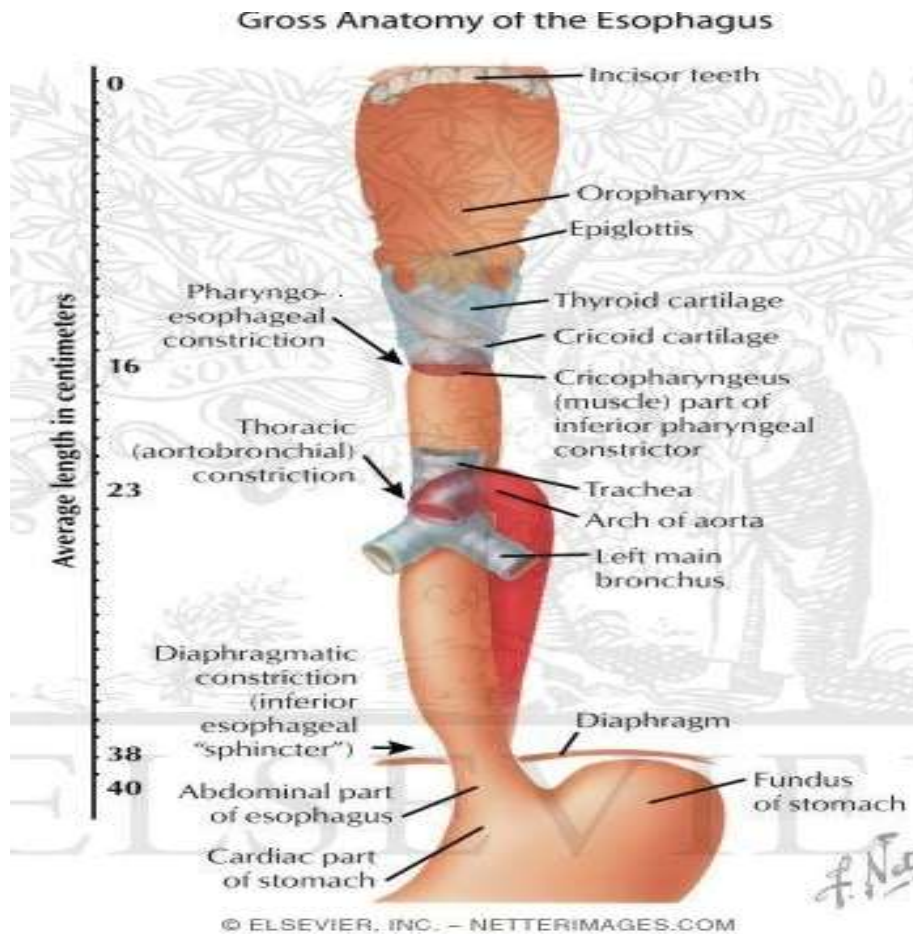


Fig. (2): Gross anatomy of the oesophagus (*Gray et al., 2008*).

The esophagus has 3 constrictions in its vertical course, as follows:

- The first constriction is at 15 cm from the upper incisor teeth, where the esophagus commences at the cricopharyngeal sphincter; this is the narrowest portion of the esophagus and approximately corresponds to the sixth cervical vertebra