

## Clinical Image

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# Dysphagia lusoria: A rare vascular anomaly

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### Description

A 39-year-old female with a past medical history of chronic bronchitis presented for evaluation of progressive dysphagia. She reported a long-standing history of difficulty swallowing, often experiencing transient substernal obstruction of solid food and occasionally liquids. Her symptoms subsequently progressed until she was tolerating only minimal oral intake accompanied by unintentional weight loss, prompting her to seek care. A barium esophagram revealed a 2.7 cm extrinsic compression in the upper esophagus. A CT angiogram of the chest identified an aberrant right subclavian artery compressing the esophagus. An Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) confirmed extrinsic compression in the upper third of the esophagus, consistent with suspected dysphagia lusoria. Esophageal biopsy showed normal mucosa. She underwent right subclavian to carotid transposition and Thoracic Aneurysm Endovascular Repair (TAVR). At a follow-up assessment two weeks postoperatively, she reported complete resolution of dysphagia.

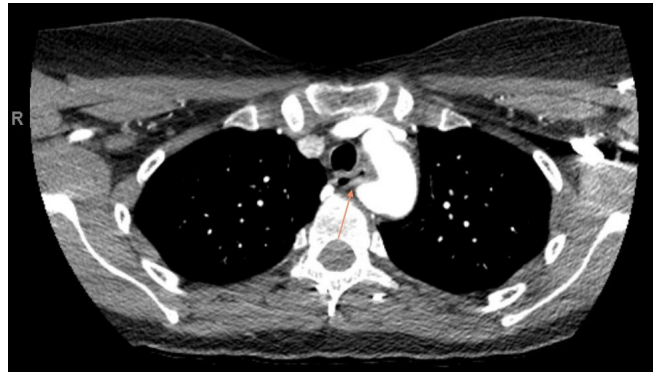
Dysphagia lusoria is a rare condition that occurs secondary to extrinsic esophageal compression by an aberrant right subclavian artery [1]. An aberrant right subclavian artery has a prevalence of 0.16-4.4% [2]. This anomaly is symptomatic in about 30% of cases identified by Figure 2. Dysphagia is the most common related symptom, reported in 90% of cases [1,2]. Other reported symptoms include cough, dyspnea, and chest pain [3].



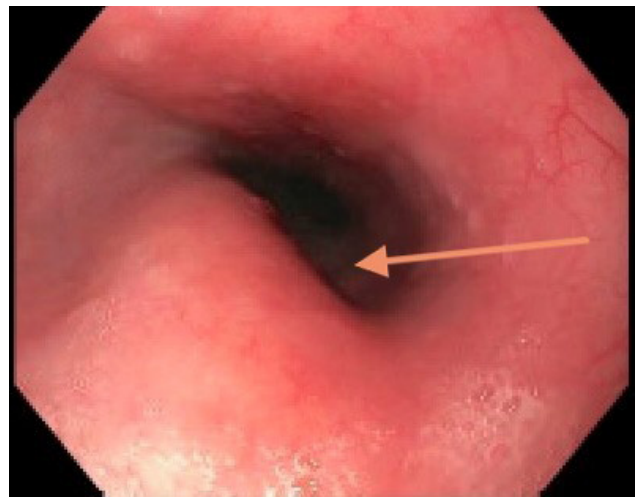
**Figure 1:** Barium swallow showing approximately 2.7 cm length of extrinsic compression of the upper esophagus resulting in moderate retention of the ingested bolus.



**Figure 2:** CT Angiogram (sagittal view) showing an aberrant right subclavian artery with left aortic arch.



**Figure 3:** CT Angiogram (axial view) showing mass effect on the posterior esophagus.



**Figure 4:** EGD showing extrinsic compression in the upper third of the esophagus, consistent with history of suspected dysphagia lusoria.