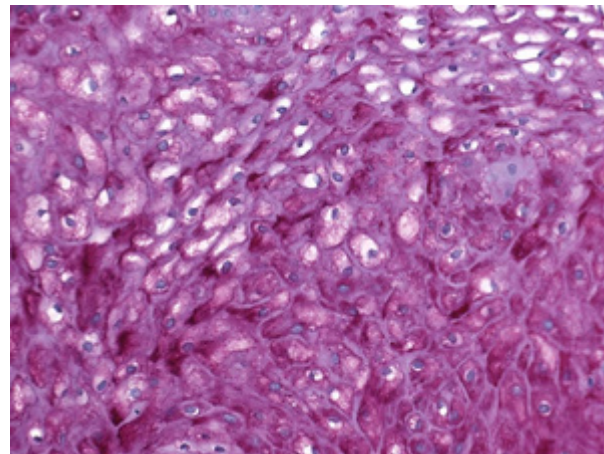
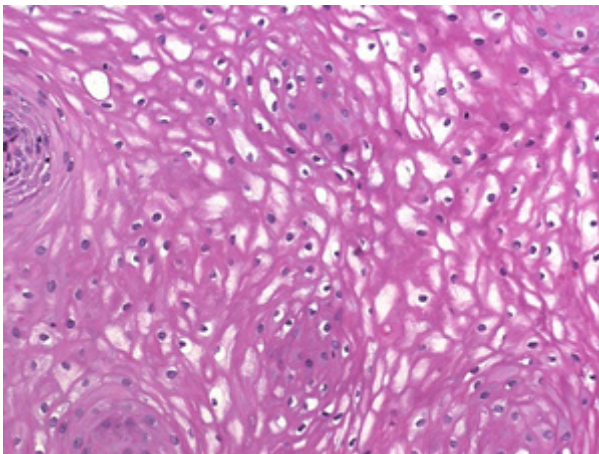
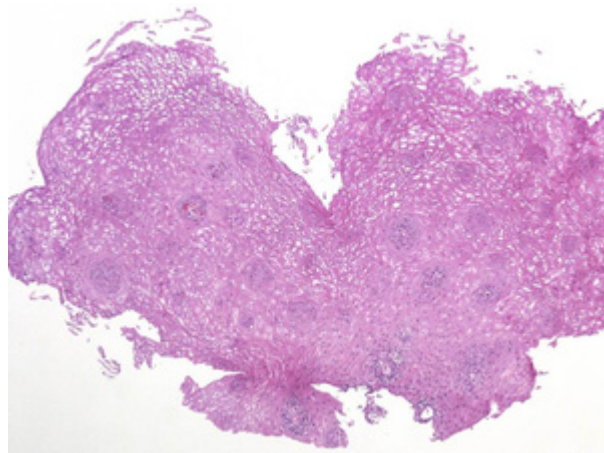
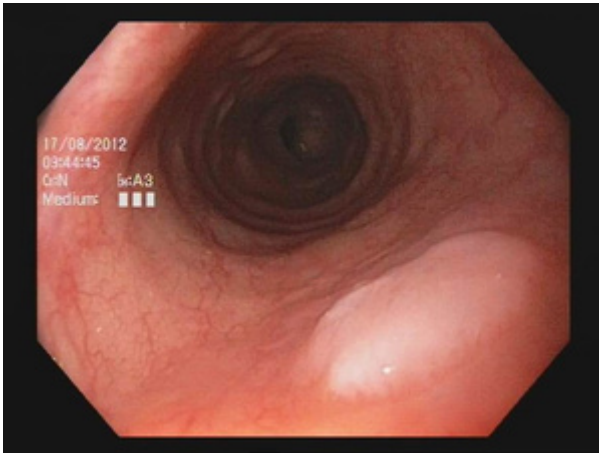


December 2013

Slightly raised grey-white plaque within the oesophagus of an 89-year-old female.

What is your diagnosis?



Diagnosis

Glycogenic acanthosis.

Comment

Glycogenic acanthosis is characterized by slightly raised plaque-like or nodular lesions of the oesophageal squamous epithelium, usually 2-10 mm in diameter, resulting from accumulation of excess glycogen in mature squamous cells. In most cases, multiple lesions are found distributed throughout the entire length of the oesophagus, however, with concentration in the proximal two thirds. The etiology is unknown. Affected individuals are asymptomatic, the condition usually being an incidental finding. Differential diagnosis includes *Candida* infection and ectopic salivary gland tissue.

As the lesions tend to appear in the fifth to sixth decades of life and become more numerous and larger with increasing age, glycogenic acanthosis is thought to be an age-related degenerative process. However, in inherited hamartoma polyposis syndromes, affecting the stomach, the large bowel or both sites, the presence of glycogenic acanthosis of the esophagus is highly predictive of Cowden syndrome and the presence of PTEN mutation.

For further reading

- › Nazligül Y, Aslan M, Esen R, et al. Benign glycogenic acanthosis lesions of the esophagus. *Turk J Gastroenterol.* 2012;23:199-202.
- › Pilarski R, Burt R, Kohlman W, et al. Cowden Syndrome and the PTEN Hamartoma Tumor Syndrome: Systematic Review and Revised Diagnostic Criteria. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2013;105:1607-16.
- › Coriat R, Mozer M, Caux F, et al. Endoscopic findings in Cowden syndrome. *Endoscopy.* 2011;43:723-6.

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