

## **The Role of Esophageal Stenting in the Management of Anastomotic Leaks after Esophageal and Esophago-Gastric Cancer Resections. Literature Review**

Cristian Gelu Rosianu<sup>1</sup>, Petre Hoara<sup>2,3</sup>, Alkadour Abdullah<sup>2,3</sup>, Florin Achim<sup>2,3</sup>, Rodica Birla<sup>2,3</sup>, Silviu Constantinoiu<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, St. Mary Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Romania

<sup>2</sup>General Surgery Department, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania

<sup>3</sup>Department of General and Esophageal Surgery, Center of Excellence in Esophageal Surgery, St. Mary Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Romania

### **Abstract**

*Introduction:* Anastomotic fistulas after surgery for esophageal cancer, remain a challenge for both the surgeon and the gastroenterologist. The aim of the study is to highlight the role of esophageal stenting in the management of leaks after esophagectomy for malignancies.

*Materials and Methods:* We reviewed the available literature on the endoscopic treatment of esophageal anastomotic leaks, especially articles on endoscopic stenting in the management of this complication. Pubmed and ClinicalKey databases were searched using keywords such as esophageal anastomotic leaks, fully covered self-expanding metal stents, esophageal neoplasm. The relevant literature has been reviewed and included in the article.

*Results and Conclusions:* The insertion of self-expanding stents in the fistulas of the esophageal anastomosis, represents an efficient method of treatment both for the closure of the fistula and in the control of sepsis. The morbidity and mortality associated with this method of treatment may be significant.

**Key words:** esophageal fistula, esophageal neoplasm, esophageal metal stent