

Endoscopy & Roentgenologic Evaluation of Oesophageal Varices
Pre & Post Operatively

S. Bhargava, D.K. Bhargava, S. Verma, P. Kamath, B.M. Gandhi
and S. Nundy

Department of Radiology, Gastroenterology
& Surgery, A.I.I.M.S

A large number of methods have been described for assessing shunt patency but no systematic study has been made. The presence or absence of varices post-operatively is one of the methods which can be employed for the assessment of shunt patency. In this study we planned to utilize endoscope (Olympus) GIF D2) for the study of varices and results were compared with the barium swallow. Twenty cases of portal hypertension were examined pre-operatively and 19 cases of these after the shunt surgery. The duration of the examination post-operatively ranged between 2 weeks to 3 years on an average after 3 months. Varices were graded into four grades. During the pre-operative assessment both the endoscopy and barium studies showed varices in all the patients. Difference of grading by +1 or -1 was present in some cases. Following successful shunt procedure, reduction was noted in the grading of the varices by 2 grades. In the post-operative evaluation of 19 patients, the barium swallow was considered normal in 3 cases, where endoscopy graded them at grade I varices and in 3 cases barium swallow grading was I where as endoscopy declared them to be normal. It is concluded that in grade III & grade IV varices barium swallow and endoscopy have equal degree of accuracy, where as in grade I & II endoscopy scores an edge over the barium swallow in about 17 % of cases, with constant correlation this figure can be brought down further to acceptable levels of accuracy.