

## **Endoscopic removal of an eroded gastric band – worth a try!**

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**Introduction:** Laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding surgery, although popular, is associated with a significant long-term complication rate. The incidence of band erosion is estimated at 1- 4%, and can rarely be a serious and fatal complication. Multiple techniques, varying from open surgery to laparoscopic and endoscopic procedures have been described. In the current presentation, we describe our initial experience with endoscopic removal of an eroded gastric band.

**Methods and Results:** We present our initial experience with an endoscopic approach to band removal. The patient was successfully treated with endoscopic removal of the band using a mechanical lithotripsy device as well as local port site extraction. No intraabdominal surgery was required. The patient was sent home on postoperative day two after a normal upper GI study. We highlight tips for successful endoscopic removal.

**Conclusion:** Our initial experience with endoscopic removal of a fully eroded band was successful and we encourage others to attempt this relatively simple and minimally invasive approach as a first option to manage a completely eroded gastric band.

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