# A Case of Advanced Esophageal Carcinosarcoma

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Recognizing esophageal carcinosarcoma tumors (ECS) as rare, advanced esophageal tumors with favorable survival rate

## CASE PRESENTATION

A 69-year-old man, an every day smoker with a history of ongoing alcohol use, presented for the evaluation of unintentional weight loss and progressive dysphagia of 2 months duration

**Upper endoscopy findings:**

- Large, partially obstructing ulcerating mass in the mid esophagus

**Pathology findings:**

- A high grade squamous cell carcinoma mixed with a high grade spindle cell sarcoma (carcinosarcoma)

**PET/CT findings:**

- Intense FDG uptake in the esophageal mass, mediastinal lymph nodes, T6 and T10 ribs, suggestive of metastatic disease

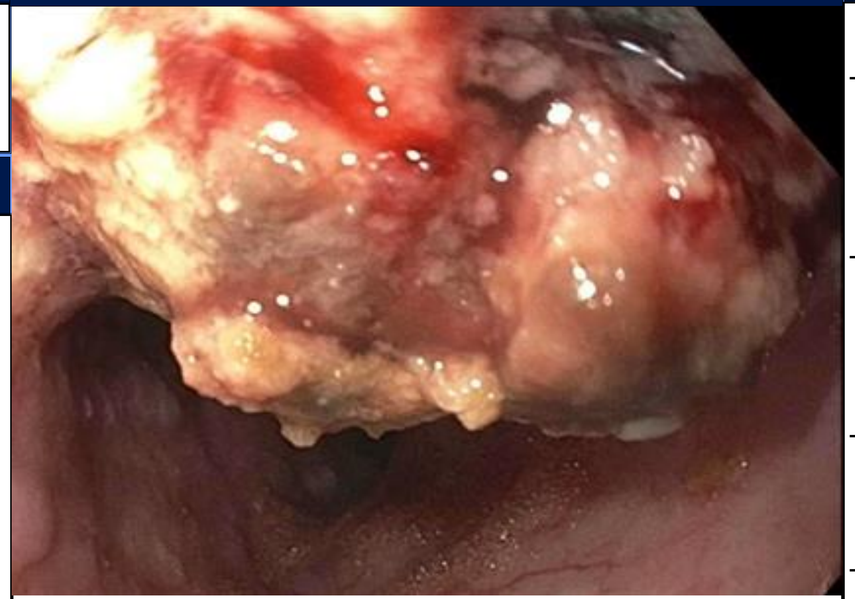
**Treatment provided:**

- Chemotherapy including Paclitaxel, Carboplatin
- Radiation therapy

**Interval response to treatment:**

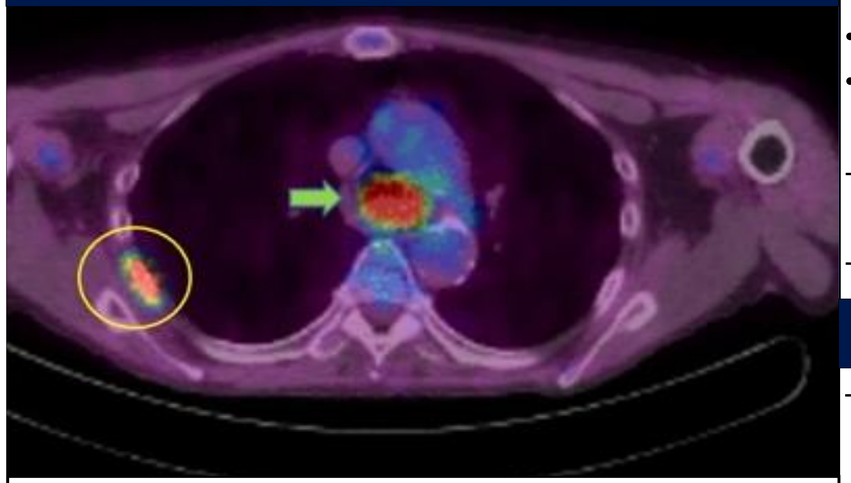
- Resolution of dysphagia
- Improvement in PET/CT uptake

## UPPER ENDOSCOPY FINDINGS



A large protruding, partially obstructing ulcerating mass in the mid esophagus

## PET/CT FINDINGS



Intense FDG uptake by the esophageal tumor (green arrow) and intense FDG uptake in the posterior/lateral aspect of the right T6 rib (yellow circle)

## DISCUSSION

- Carcinosarcoma tumors present histologically with two distinct malignant components, both carcinomatous and sarcomatous
- Carcinosarcoma tumors were documented in tumors of the uterus, breast, thyroid, lung and gastrointestinal tract
- Esophageal cancer ranks seventh in incidence and sixth in cancer-related mortality
- Carcinosarcoma tumors located in the esophagus (ECS) have a rare incidence, accounting for approximately 1.5% of all esophageal tumors
- ECS are diagnosed early due to :
  - Predominantly exogenous, luminal polypoid growth
  - Calculated doubling time of 2.2 months
- Favorable 5 year survival rate due to early diagnosis
- Given rarity, no established standard treatment

## CONCLUSIONS

- Esophageal carcinosarcoma tumors (ECS) are rare and early diagnosed
- Further data should be gathered and published with aim to develop standard treatment protocols