



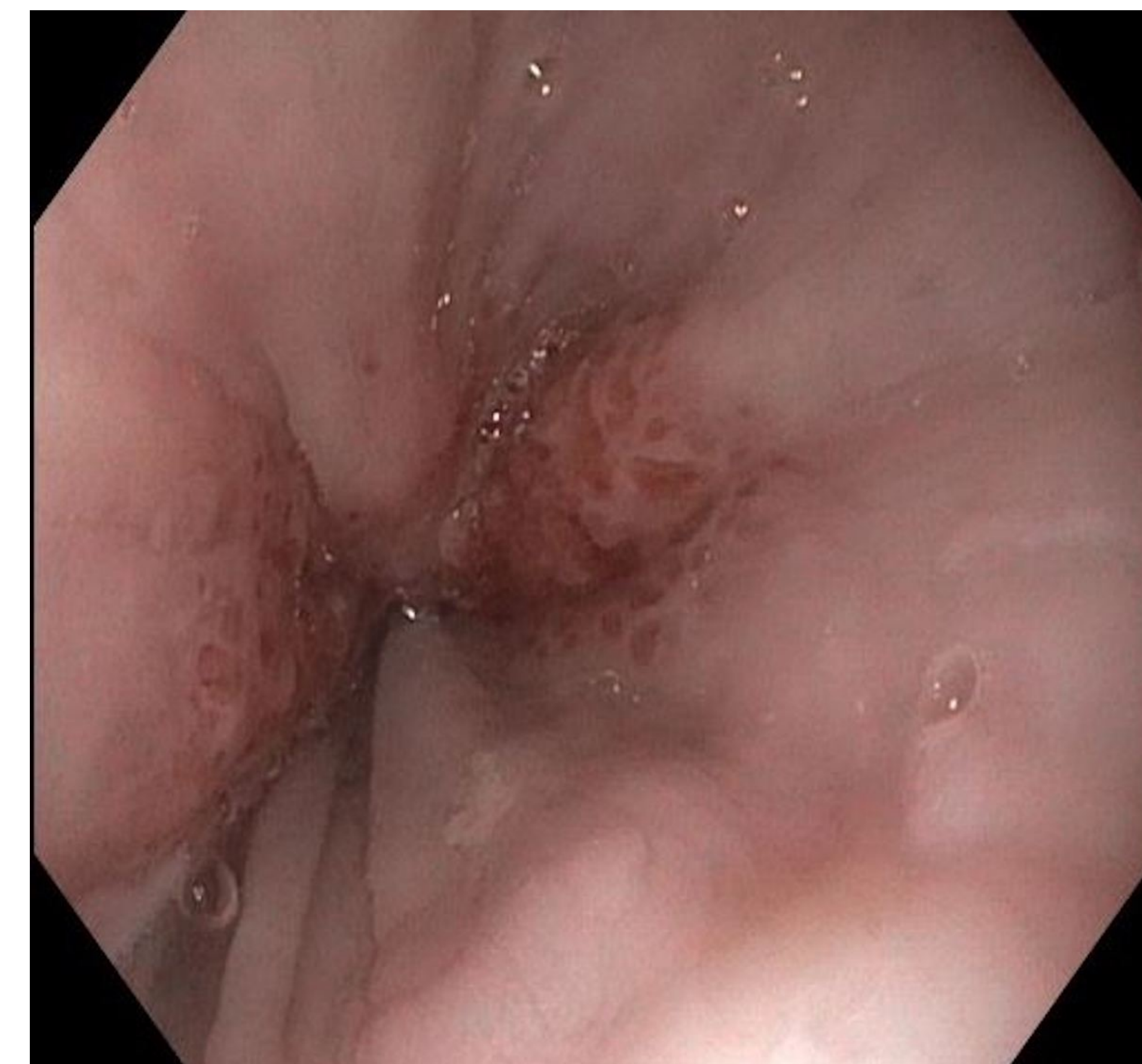
## Introduction

- Pagetoid spread refers to the “upward spreading” of cancer cells into the upper dermis from below.
- In the esophagus, pagetoid spread is a rare finding seen with poorly differentiated adenocarcinomas and is associated with deeper invasion.

## Case Report

- A 75-year-old male with history of diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia presented to the gastroenterology clinic for dysphagia to solids.
- He reported that his symptoms started intermittently approximately three weeks prior and had gradually progressed.
- He denied a history of acid reflux, heartburn, or prior episodes of dysphagia.
- He also reported an unintentional loss of 10 pounds over the past five months.
- His medications included lisinopril, metformin, pioglitazone, and simvastatin.

- He denied a history of tobacco, alcohol, or other recreational drug use.
- He reported no family history of gastrointestinal malignancy.
- Physical exam was unremarkable.
- To further evaluate his dysphagia, an esophagogastroduodenoscopy was performed, revealing a small fungating mass in the distal esophagus near the gastroesophageal junction.
- Superior to this in the distal and mid-esophagus, there was a long segment of circumferential induration with irregular, reticulated erosions (Figure 1).
- Biopsies of the lesion revealed esophageal adenocarcinoma with pagetoid spread into overlying squamous epithelium, arising in Barrett mucosa with high-grade dysplasia.
- Endoscopic ultrasound was subsequently performed, revealing a mass measuring 12 mm in thickness with sonographic evidence of invasion into the adventitia and one malignant appearing lymph node in the lower paraesophageal mediastinum (staged T3, N1).



**Figure 1:** Circumferential induration with irregular, reticulated erosions found in the mid esophagus during upper endoscopy.

## Discussion

Upper endoscopy is highly sensitive and specific for diagnosing esophageal cancer. However, in cases where there may not be an obvious fungating tumor, the presence of indurated mucosa with reticular erosions should alert the endoscopist to the presence of malignancy, possibly with pagetoid spread and deep invasion, as was seen in this patient.