

Conclusion: Bevacizumab is a promising pharmacologic treatment for radiation induced hemorrhagic gastritis

Introduction.

- Radiation induced hemorrhagic gastritis is an uncommon complication of radiation therapy
- Therapies that have been attempted for this pathology include argon plasma coagulation (APC), steroids, radiofrequency ablation, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and surgical resection
- Few cases of successful treatment with Bevacizumab has been reported
- We present a case of radiation induced gastritis complicated by transfusion dependent anemia that was successfully treated with Bevacizumab

Case Description.

- A 65 year old male with a medical history of esophageal adenocarcinoma that was treated with chemoradiation
- About 5 years after after radiation therapy, he started to report melena and was found to have severe iron deficiency anemia
- EGD showed diffuse erythema, friability and oozing of the gastric mucosa with tissue biopsy concerning for radiation induced gastritis
- Several rounds of treatment with APC, radiofrequency, prednisone, and hyperbaric oxygen failed to control his bleeding
- He was started on on anti-angiogenic therapy with Bevacizumab 5mg/kg every 2 weeks which resulted in resolution of his melena and requiring significantly less transfusions

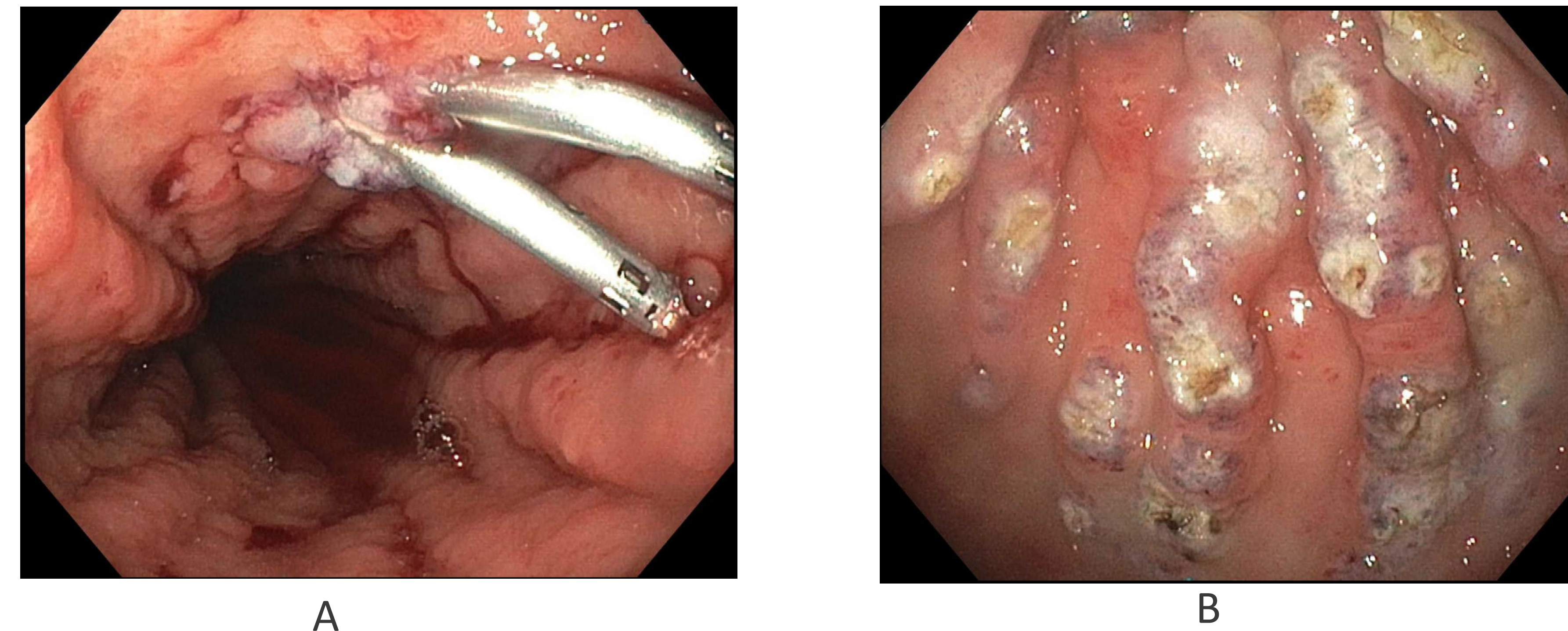


Figure 1. Images of endoscopic therapies with endo clips (A) and APC (B)

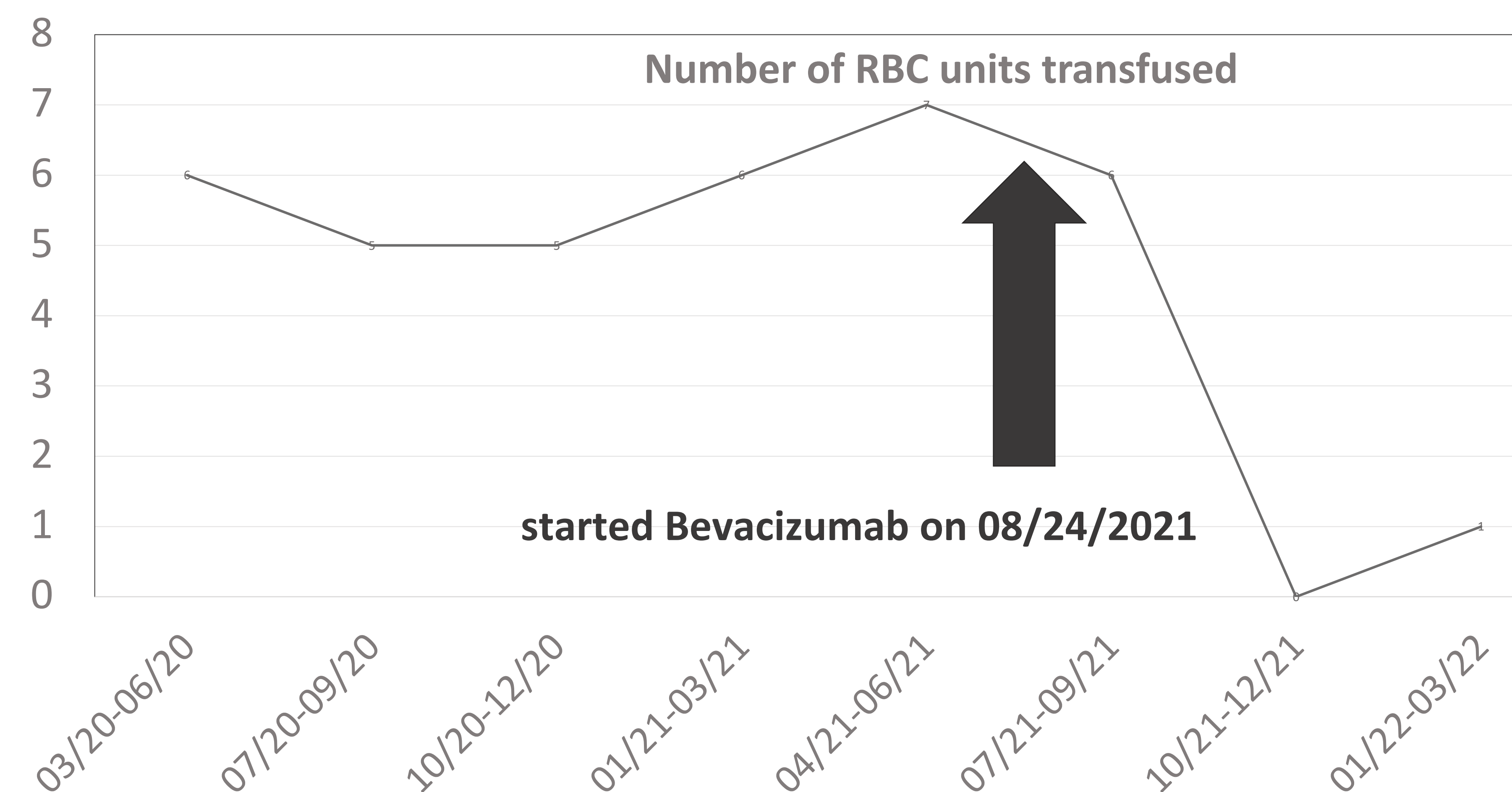


Figure 2. A graph of pRBC transfusions over time

Discussion.

- Hemorrhagic radiation gastritis is mainly due to mucosal injury and telangiectatic vessels from angiogenesis secondary to endothelial proliferation.
- Bevacizumab is an anti-vascular endothelial growth factor humanized monoclonal antibody that inhibits angiogenesis.
- Bevacizumab has been shown to be effective in treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, gastric antral vascular ectasia, and small bowel angioectasia.
- It has also been reported to treat radiation-induced hemorrhagic gastritis in a few case studies.
- Our case demonstrates that Bevacizumab is a promising pharmacologic treatment for radiation induced hemorrhagic gastritis

References.

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