



## Preface to special series: management of airways and vascular invasion in the mediastinum

The mediastinum is a region of the body containing several critical organs and structures. It is an extremely complex space through which course the central airways and the body's largest vessels, and it houses several lymph node stations. Taken together, when cancer is involved, this is an area where significant morbidity can occur. Each of these structures can be the primary site of malignancy or the downstream casualty of tumor invasion, or both. Given the burden of disease that this can cause for patients, a thorough understanding of how to evaluate, manage, or refer these patients is needed for clinicians.

In this special series, we review the invasion of both airway and vascular structures within the mediastinum. We will begin with an overview of central airway obstruction followed by respective thorough treatments of airway stenting and therapeutic bronchoscopy outcomes each in their own article. We then cover the difficult and serious condition of aero-digestive fistula and uniquely discuss each from the gastroenterologist perspective and the bronchoscopist perspective. We conclude the series by examining endovascular interventions for vascular compression as well as considerations for anesthesia in patients with mediastinal pathology that can threaten both ventilation and blood flow.

It is our hope that this series will prove to be an up-to-date educational tool for providers that manage patients with the aforementioned conditions. While such patients can be medically complex and no journal series can be exhaustive, we have sought to present clinically useful information in a concise yet thorough manner, furnished by experts in their respective disciplines.

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