



Tracheoesophageal fistula

Tracheoesophageal fistula (TEF) is an anomalous communication between trachea and esophagus. It can be either congenital or acquired. Although, congenital TEFs are usually associated with esophageal atresia, acquired TEFs may have wide range of causes including foreign body aspiration, malignancy and irradiation. The diagnosis of TEF is challenging and requires high index of suspicion in patients with atypical symptoms. The treatment of TEF is surgical and depends on the anatomical localization. Despite the precautionary measures, the frequency of recurrence after TEF is high, and some patients require repeated surgical treatment. Therefore, endoscopic methods have been developed to avoid surgical morbidity. This special series focused on different aspects of TEF in both children and adults. Current treatment alternatives for different causes of TEF and solutions of challenging conditions are addressed by the well-known experts. It is hoped that this special series will be a guide for all physicians dealing with TEF in children and adults.

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