

Differential diagnosis¹

Patient characteristics	Eosinophilic oesophagitis	GORD	Oesophageal cancer	Dysmotility
Dysphagia	Intermittent / continuous	Unusual	Progressive / continuous	Intermittent with long history
Heartburn	Less common	Characteristic	Previous history	Rare
Chest pain	Can be prominent feature	May occur	Rare	Common
Food impaction	Common	Rare	May occur rarely	Rare / occasional
Vomiting	More common in children	Rare	Rare	No
Regurgitation	Infrequent but secondary to food being stuck	Common but from stomach contents with foul taste	Infrequent but secondary to food being stuck	May occur
History of atopy	Common	No	No	No
Age	Uncommon >60	Any age	>50	Any age
Diagnostic tests				
Endoscopy	Oesophageal rings and vertical furrows may be seen	Distal oesophagitis / distal strictures may be seen	Diagnostic of a tumour	Frequently normal
Biopsy	>15 eosinophils /hpf	< 5 eosinophils / hpf	Diagnostic	Normal
Barium swallow	May show strictures or narrow bore oesophagus	May show distal strictures	Can be diagnostic	May show dilation
24-hour pH studies	Normal	Abnormal	N/A	Usually normal
Manometry	Normal or distal obstruction	May be normal or hypomotility	Normal or obstruction	Diagnostic of dysmotility

1. Working Group. Data on file, Dr Falk.