AGA Clinical Practice Update on the Optimal Management of the Malignant Alimentary Tract Obstruction: Expert Review

By Cynthia Tran, MD

The Emoroid Digest @EmoryGastroHep

Best Practice Advice Statements

1. **Intervention decisions should involve oncologists, surgeons, and endoscopists**

Google Images.

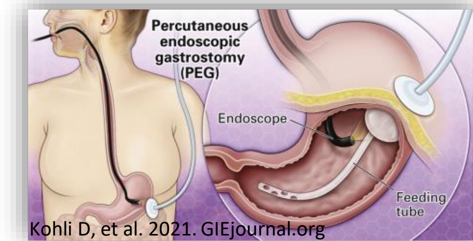
2. **Esophageal cancer obstruction**

Avoid routine self-expanding metal stents (SEMS)

Dua K, et al. 2019. GIEjournal.org

3. **Esophageal cancer obstruction + malnutrition**

Consider PEG placement



Kohli D, et al. 2021. GIEjournal.org

4. **Esophageal cancer + Ineligible for resection**

Consider SEMS or brachytherapy or combination

5. **Esophageal cancer + SEMS placement**

Place a fully-covered or partially-covered SEMS

6. **Malignant gastric outlet obstruction (GOO)**

+

Life expectancy > 2 months +
✓Functional status + Surgically fit

Surgical gastrojejunostomy (GJ) > Enteral stent

James T, et al. 2019. GIEjournal.org

7. **Surgical GJ for malignant GOO: Laparoscopic approach > Open approach**

8. **Malignant GOO**

+

Ineligible for surgical or EUS-guided GJ

Consider enteral stent placement

Ahmed O, Lee JH, Thompson CC, Faulx A. AGA Clinical Practice Update on the Optimal Management of the Malignant Alimentary Tract Obstruction: Expert Review. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2021 Sep;19(9):1780-1788. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2021.03.046. Epub 2021 Apr 1. PMID: 33813072.

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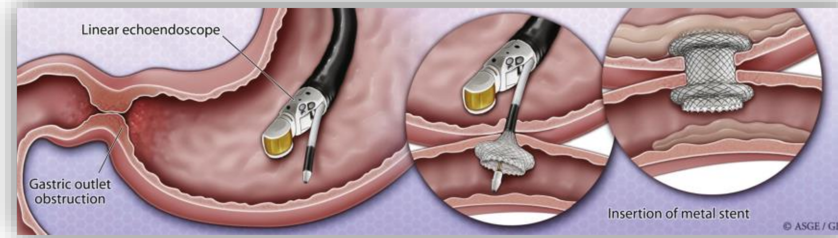
9. **Multiple malignant luminal obstructions or severely impaired gastric motility**

Avoid enteral stenting and consider venting gastrostomy



10. **Depending on endoscopist experience, EUS-guided GJ is an acceptable alternative to surgical GJ and enteral stenting**

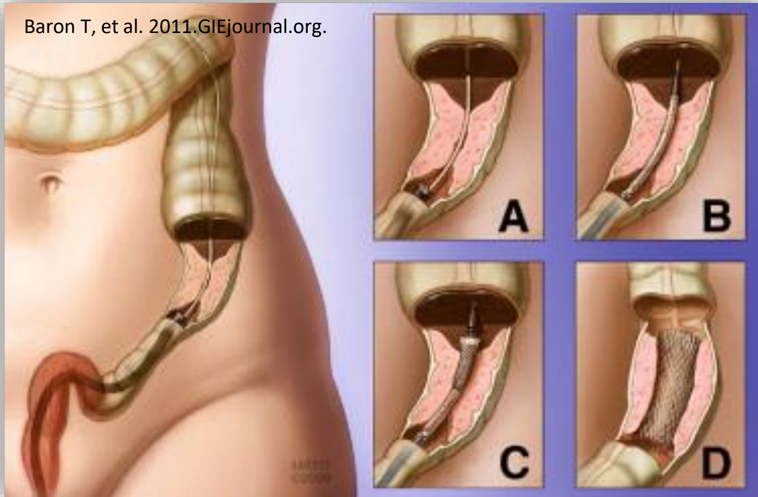
11. **Malignant colonic obstruction + Eligible for resection**

SEMS insertion is a reasonable choice as a bridge to surgery

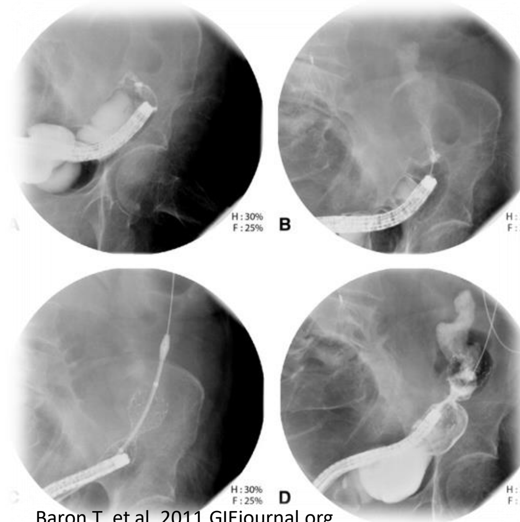
12. **Malignant colonic obstruction + Ineligible for resection**

SEM insertion or Diverting colostomy

13. **Right-sided colonic obstruction: SEMS insertion is reasonable as a bridge to surgery or as palliative therapy**



Baron T, et al. 2011.GIEjournal.org.



Baron T, et al. 2011.GIEjournal.org.

14. **Extra-colonic malignancy**
+
Ineligible for resection
↓
SEMS insertion is an option
BUT
-Technically challenging
-Variable clinical success rate
- ↑ Complications (e.g. stent migration)

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