



Oesophageal rings or webs are narrowing found in the oesophagus. Most are incidental findings. In the lower oesophagus, there are two types of rings; the A ring which is usually found 2-3 cm above the gastro-oesophageal junction (GOJ) and the B ring or better known as the Schatzki (Schatzki Gary ring) is typically found at the squamo-columnar junction. The Schatzki ring is more common and is seen in 5 to 14% of barium swallow or meal studies. However, only 0.5% is symptomatic, causing intermittent non-progressive dysphagia. The Schatzki ring, on endoscopy appear as a fixed diaphragm-like smooth stricture at the GOJ covered with normal squamous mucosa on the proximal side (pink) and columnar epithelium on the distal side (orange). Symptoms only occur when the oesophageal lumen is less than 13mm. It is widely believed to be due to chronic acid injury. The A ring is made of a hypertrophied muscle layer (4<sup>th</sup> muscularis propria layer). The other type of ring is the oesophageal web which is usually found in the proximal oesophagus, typically on the anterior wall. It is often associated with chronic iron deficiency anaemia and some also believe it to be associated with chronic acid related injury. Oesophageal rings can also be seen in eosinophilic oesophagitis as multiple rings in the body of the esophagus.

#### REFERENCES

1: Zervos X. Esophageal webs and rings. Medscape reference. eMedicine. Available from <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/186561-overview> (Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011).

**Note:** Supplementary text included to enhance the education value