

Corrosive esophageal injury

Caustic ingestion can cause severe injury to the esophagus and the stomach. The severity and extent of esophageal and gastric damage resulting from a caustic ingestion depend upon the corrosive properties of the ingested substance; the amount, concentration, and physical form (solid or liquid) of the agent and the duration of contact with the mucosa.

These patients may present with difficulty in swallowing, which can range from mild to absolute dysphagia (inability to swallow food).

Patients with short segment narrowing of the esophagus may respond well to the endoscopic dilatation. However, patients with absolute dysphagia require surgery in the form of colon pull up operation.

