**Background**

Achalasia can be defined as the lack of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES) to relax and the presence of abnormal motility in the remainder of the esophagus. There is destruction or complete absence of myenteric ganglion cells in lower third of esophagus. Progressive dilation of esophagus above LES and variable wall thickness due to hypertrophied circular layer of muscularis propria usually characterizes achalasia.

**Procedure**

Open specimen longitudinally.

Pin specimen out and place on formalin allowing time for proper fixation.

Photograph specimen.

Two parallel longitudinal strips are taken from the proximal to the distal end of the specimen and are divided into 2 cm lengths. The proximal end of each 2 cm segment is marked with ink. These sequential longitudinal specimens are submitted in sequentially numbered or lettered cassettes, but the same level specimens can be put into single cassettes.

**Sample Dictation**

A." Esophagectomy" Received in formalin in a large container is a distal esophagectomy and proximal gastrectomy specimen, consisting of distal esophagus (11.8 cm in length x 11.1 cm in internal circumference), proximal stomach (2.1 cm in length x 7.4 cm in internal circumference) and attached perigastric adipose tissue. The lumen of the esophagus is markedly dilated with slight narrowing at the GE junction. The esophageal mucosa has diffuse cobblestone architecture with an underlying thickened muscle wall. The GE junction and gastric mucosa are both unremarkable. The adventitial/ serosal surfaces are unremarkable. Inking code: Proximal ends - blue.

Cassette Summary:

A1-A6. One full length longitudinal strip of esophagus and stomach, serially sectioned and submitted sequentially from proximal to distal. (1ss each)

B. "Cervical esophageal margin" Received in a small container filled with formalin is a 0.9 cm (length) x 4.0 cm (diameter) dilated segment of esophagus with one opened end and one stapled end.

B1. Opened end, shaved, and submitted en face. (1ns)

Note: Staple line retained.

**Sample Images of Achalasia**



