53F with chronic epigastric pain

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Celiac artery compression syndrome
Aorta

Patent celiac artery origin
Mild dilatation of celiac artery distal to kink
Notched or kinked appearance of proximal celiac artery secondary to compression by the median arcuate ligament
Notched or kinked appearance of proximal celiac artery
Celiac artery compression syndrome (aka median arcuate ligament syndrome)

- Diagnosis best made on CTA or MRA images
- Median arcuate ligament: fibrous arch which at the crura of diaphragm which overlays aorta
- Celiac artery compression accentuated during expiratory phase of respiration; expiration useful during imaging for detection
- Compression of celiac artery may occur at the proximal celiac artery, demonstrating a notched or kinked appearance from external compression rather than internal stenosis
Celiac artery compression syndrome

• A.K.A. celiac axis syndrome, median arcuate ligament syndrome, and Dunbar syndrome

• Diagnosis of exclusion for chronic epigastric or abdominal pain

• Symptom triad: postprandial abdominal pain, weight loss, +/- abdominal bruit

• Epidemiology: F>>M, 4th-6th decades of life, low BMI

• Definitive Dx made with CTA/MRI + US

• Treatment: surgery in highly select patients
References

