58-year-old female presents with dysphagia

John J. DeBevits IV, MD
Zenker diverticulum
Large outpouching of the esophageal mucosa with filling of contrast media within the defect.
Additional images of intrigue

Post-op .......

10 months later
Tend to recur...
Zenker diverticulum

- **False, pulsion** type of diverticulum with mucosal herniation through area of anatomic weakness just above the cricopharyngeal muscle (Killian triangle)
- Presents with esophageal dysphagia, regurgitation and aspiration of undigested food
- Often associated with dysmotility, hiatal hernia, and GERD

- Complications include iatrogenic perforation during endoscopy or tube placement, aspiration, and small risk (0.3%) of carcinoma

- Treatment = surgical diverticulectomy or endoscopic repair
  - Following repair, commonly a residual outpouching will be seen, and many tend to recur…
Zenker diverticulum

• Top ddx = Killian-Jamieson (KJ) diverticulum
  – Opening is **below** the cricopharyngeus muscle
  – Herniates in an **anterolateral** direction
• Other ddx = esophageal web, epidermolysis and pemphigoid
References