

# A now rarely seen anti-reflux device: The Angelchik prosthesis

Jake Sloane, Sanjay Gupta

## CASE REPORT

A 43-year-old male was presented to our upper gastrointestinal clinic with acute symptoms of reflux and dysphagia to both solids and liquids. He had undergone open anti-reflux surgery 15 years prior with the fitting of a now obsolete device—the Angelchik device. Until this episode, he had enjoyed a normal diet with well controlled gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) symptoms. He was listed for surgery due to the sudden onset of severe symptoms and inability to tolerate food.

No erosion or injury to the esophagus was noted. However, it was evident that the prosthesis had moved into an abnormal position causing an acquired stenosis of the lumen (Figure 1). It was removed in its entirety and an immediate laparoscopic Nissen's fundoplication was performed. The patient made an uneventful recovery from the procedure and was back to eating a normal diet within two weeks of the procedure.

## DISCUSSION

The Angelchik device was introduced in 1979 [1]. It consisted of a C-shaped ring of silicon fitted around the gastroesophageal junction. The ring was secured in the place by means a fitted Dacron tape. It was well favored at the time compared to other anti-reflux surgeries



Figure 1: Laparoscopic image of the Angelchik device having been freed from the lower esophagus.

because of the simple and standardized technique of insertion of the device [2]. Over 25,000 devices were inserted worldwide [3].

However, enthusiasm for the device hugely subsided when long-term results became available. Up to 70% of patients developed moderate to severe dysphagia [4]. In addition, other complications were frequently reported including migration of device (due to Dacron tape failure) and erosion into surrounding structures [3].

## CONCLUSION

By 1990, use of the Angelchik device was almost entirely abandoned and open Nissen's fundoplication became the accepted technique to treat GERD. Nowadays, the laparoscopic version of this procedure is common place.

Of note, a similar prosthesis to the Angelchik device is in use called the laparoscopic adjustable gastric band (also known as the lap-band or LAGB). However, rather than treating reflux, this implantable ring is employed in

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# Reflux Esophagitis And The Angelchik Prosthesis

**Daniela Niemeyer**



## **Reflux Esophagitis And The Angelchik Prosthesis:**

## The Enigmatic Realm of **Reflux Esophagitis And The Angelchik Prosthesis**: Unleashing the Language is Inner Magic

In a fast-paced digital era where connections and knowledge intertwine, the enigmatic realm of language reveals its inherent magic. Its capacity to stir emotions, ignite contemplation, and catalyze profound transformations is nothing in short supply of extraordinary. Within the captivating pages of **Reflux Esophagitis And The Angelchik Prosthesis** a literary masterpiece penned by a renowned author, readers set about a transformative journey, unlocking the secrets and untapped potential embedded within each word. In this evaluation, we shall explore the book's core themes, assess its distinct writing style, and delve into its lasting effect on the hearts and minds of those that partake in its reading experience.

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