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Zenker's diverticulum masquerade as gastroextraesophageal reflux

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Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) affects a big percent of Europe population (more than 20%). There is no sensitive and specific diagnostic test, and its symptoms often are nonspecific and overlap with other conditions commonly seen in primary care. Its is utmost importance to rule out the possibility of malignancy. Once cancer is excluded, many benign upper airway conditions also can masquerade as GERD. Although reflux is a potencial etiologic factor for upper airway symptoms, it is important not to blame reflux. in our case we presents a 62 years woman with regurgitation, hoarseness and dysphagia symptoms for five years who was diagnosed by GERD by her family doctor and treated with empiric PPI therapy. Later on, otolaryngologist found food debris in left pyriform sinus reason why he asked for computed tomography which showed a Zenker's diverticulum. This case report is an example of how GERD symptoms can be confused with laryngopharyngeal pathologies. Accurately diagnosing GERD requires thoughtful clinical judgment when taking the history, choosing diagnostic testing and in the treatment approach.