Mediastinitis and sepsis syndrome following intubation

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Abstract

A patient developed sepsis syndrome with shock 7 h after an anaesthetic for a shoulder replacement. Tracheal intubation had been difficult and required the use of a stylet and gum-elastic bougies. A gastrograin swallow subsequently demonstrated an oesophageal perforation and mediastinitis was diagnosed at surgical exploration. She survived after a prolonged period of intensive care treatment.