

GI / LIVER

Case

(*Doctor Patient*)

Hi there, Mr A? Can you tell me why you're in hospital at the moment?

I went out on Saturday night and I had a few glasses of wine. I wasn't feeling very well afterwards and I felt sick.

Did you vomit?

Yes, I vomited fresh blood. It was just a red liquid.

Were there any solid parts?

No

Then what happened?

I was fine for a while then I was sick again. This time it looked like coffee beans - vomit with black bits inside of it.

Then what happened?

Well I noticed that my stools had changed.

Can you tell me about that?

Later on, my stools were very black. They smelt awful.

Did you have any constipation or diarrhoea?

No, they were just tarry.

Did you notice any changes to your appetite? Did you feel bloated? Or did you notice any increased wind?

No

Ok, and were you in pain at any point?

No, I wasn't in any pain.

Have you ever had any problems with your health in the past?

I was admitted two years ago with an alcohol problem. I had to stay in for a while - I was very confused.

Summary

This pleasant 53 year old gentleman presented to A+E with acute onset haematemesis and a known history of alcoholic liver disease with the presence of oesophageal varices. These were visible on endoscopy and were band ligated to stop the bleeding. Medical therapy of antibiotics and beta-blocker accompanied the band ligation to ensure optimal treatment.