Summary: The esophageal epithelium is considered a relatively impermeable barrier. Recent data has challenged this concept, particularly in eosinophilic esophagitis where antigen recognition putatively occurs in the epithelium. This data includes demonstration of increased epithelial permeability both in vitro and in vivo and alteration in esophageal tight junction proteins with disease. This lecture will bring forth this recent data and expand the questions to other benign esophageal diseases.


Dr. Katzka is Professor of Medicine in the Department of Gastroenterology at Mayo Clinic