Table S1 Primary tumor-site group pairwise comparisons

All six post hoc comparisons following the significant overall test.
Overall test: Kruskal-Wallis $H = 38.12$, $P < 0.001$.
Z orientation: Group 1 minus Group 2; negative standardized *Z* indicates lower ranks in Group 1.
Multiplicity adjustment: Bonferroni correction across 6 pairwise comparisons.

Group 1	Group 2	Standardized *Z*	*P* value	Result
Hypopharyngeal	Laryngeal	-2.68	0.044	Significant
Hypopharyngeal	Upper/mid-upper EC	-3.65	0.002	Significant
Hypopharyngeal	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	-5.26	< 0.001	Significant
Laryngeal	Upper/mid-upper EC	-2.74	0.037	Significant
Laryngeal	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	-3.75	0.001	Significant
Upper/mid-upper EC	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	0.78	1.000	Nonsignificant

Abbreviations: EC, esophageal cancer; *H*, Kruskal-Wallis statistic; *Z*, standardized rank-sum statistic.

Table S2 Detailed tumor-location pairwise comparisons

All 28 post hoc comparisons; interpret cautiously because several subgroups were small.
Overall test: Kruskal-Wallis $H = 47.79$, $P < 0.001$.
Z orientation: Group 1 minus Group 2; negative standardized *Z* indicates lower ranks in Group 1.
Multiplicity adjustment: Bonferroni correction across 28 pairwise comparisons.

Group 1	Group 2	Standardized *Z*	*P* value	Result
Postcricoid	Pyriform sinus	-2.86	0.119	Nonsignificant
Postcricoid	Posterior pharyngeal wall	-3.18	0.041	Significant
Postcricoid	Supraglottic	-3.71	0.006	Significant
Postcricoid	Transglottic	-2.64	0.230	Nonsignificant
Postcricoid	Glottic	-3.87	0.003	Significant
Postcricoid	Upper/mid-upper EC	-3.34	0.024	Significant
Postcricoid	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	-4.20	< 0.001	Significant
Pyriform sinus	Posterior pharyngeal wall	-0.67	1.000	Nonsignificant
Pyriform sinus	Supraglottic	-0.35	1.000	Nonsignificant
Pyriform sinus	Transglottic	-0.18	1.000	Nonsignificant
Pyriform sinus	Glottic	-2.38	0.487	Nonsignificant
Pyriform sinus	Upper/mid-upper EC	-2.90	0.104	Nonsignificant
Pyriform sinus	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	-3.62	0.008	Significant
Posterior pharyngeal wall	Supraglottic	0.49	1.000	Nonsignificant
Posterior pharyngeal wall	Transglottic	0.19	1.000	Nonsignificant
Posterior pharyngeal wall	Glottic	-1.24	1.000	Nonsignificant
Posterior pharyngeal wall	Upper/mid-upper EC	-2.51	0.341	Nonsignificant
Posterior pharyngeal wall	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	-2.44	0.413	Nonsignificant
Supraglottic	Transglottic	0.03	1.000	Nonsignificant
Supraglottic	Glottic	-1.84	1.000	Nonsignificant
Supraglottic	Upper/mid-upper EC	-3.14	0.047	Significant
Supraglottic	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	-3.91	0.003	Significant
Transglottic	Glottic	-1.08	1.000	Nonsignificant
Transglottic	Upper/mid-upper EC	-1.92	1.000	Nonsignificant
Transglottic	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	-2.00	1.000	Nonsignificant
Glottic	Upper/mid-upper EC	-1.59	1.000	Nonsignificant
Glottic	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	-1.49	1.000	Nonsignificant
Upper/mid-upper EC	Middle/lower/mid-lower EC	0.78	1.000	Nonsignificant

Abbreviations: EC, esophageal cancer; *H*, Kruskal-Wallis statistic; *Z*, standardized rank-sum statistic.

Table S3 Symptom-documentation pairwise comparisons

All three post hoc comparisons following the significant overall test.
Overall test: Kruskal-Wallis $H = 18.87$, $P < 0.001$.
Z orientation: Group 1 minus Group 2; negative standardized *Z* indicates lower ranks in Group 1.
Multiplicity adjustment: Bonferroni correction across 3 pairwise comparisons.

Group 1	Group 2	Standardized *Z*	*P* value	Result
Explicitly denied symptoms	No symptom documentation	2.53	0.034	Significant
Explicitly denied symptoms	Documented symptoms	4.10	< 0.001	Significant
No symptom documentation	Documented symptoms	1.84	0.197	Nonsignificant

Abbreviations: *H*, Kruskal-Wallis statistic; *Z*, standardized rank-sum statistic.

No symptom documentation means no swallowing-related discomfort was recorded in the chief complaint or history of present illness. This category is distinct from explicit denial of symptoms.