Images in...

An incidental finding of a gastric foreign body 25 years after ingestion

Oliver Richard Waters, Tawfique Daneshmend, Tarek Shirazi

Gastroenterology Department, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital Foundation Trust, Exeter, UK

Correspondence to Dr Oliver Richard Waters, olski@outgun.com

DESCRIPTION

A 76-year-old female, with a blameless medical history other than well-controlled depression, was referred for urgent investigation due to weight loss and diarrhoea. A flexible sigmoidoscopy demonstrated severe diverticulosis and a subsequent CT abdomen showed a linear foreign body in the stomach but no other abnormality (figure 1). Her symptoms resolved spontaneously. On subsequent questioning, she recalled unintentionally swallowing a pen 25 years earlier. While she was interrogating a spot on her tonsil with the pen she slipped, fell and swallowed the pen by mistake. Her husband and general practitioner dismissed her story and plain abdominal films done at the time were reported as normal. A gastroscopy demonstrated a plastic felt-tip pen sitting in the lumen of the stomach without evidence of any gastric damage. The case was discussed at the gastrointestinal multi-disciplinary meeting and the consensus of opinion

was that despite being there for 25 years without causing any problems, the pen should be removed as there has been at least one case report of a duodenal perforation caused by an ingested ballpoint pen. It was subsequently removed in a combined endoscopic and ear, nose and throat procedure under general anaesthetic. The pen was still in working order (figure 2). This case highlights that plain abdominal x-rays may not identify ingested plastic objects and occasionally it may be worth believing the patient's account however unlikely it may be.

Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained.

REFERENCES

 Golffier C, Holguin F, Kobayashi A. Duodenal perforation because of swallowed ballpoint pen and its laparoscopic management: report of a case. J Pediatr Surg 2009;44:634–6.

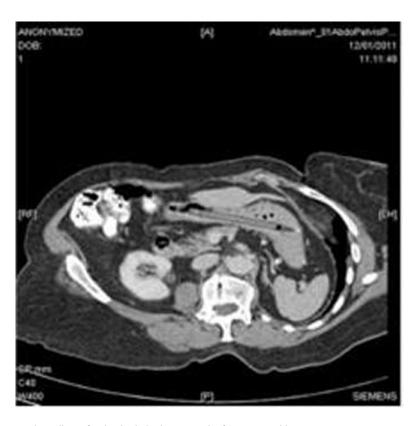


Figure 1 CT scan demonstrating a linear foreign body in the stomach of a 76-year-old woman.

BM Case Reports



Figure 2 Felt-tip pen still in working order after 25 years in stomach acid.

This pdf has been created automatically from the final edited text and images.

Copyright 2011 BMJ Publishing Group. All rights reserved. For permission to reuse any of this content visit http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions.

BMJ Case Report Fellows may re-use this article for personal use and teaching without any further permission.

Please cite this article as follows (you will need to access the article online to obtain the date of publication).

Waters OR, Daneshmend T, Shirazi T. An incidental finding of a gastric foreign body 25 years after ingestion. BMJ Case Reports 2011;10.1136/bcr.10.2011.5001, Published XXX

Become a Fellow of BMJ Case Reports today and you can:

- ► Submit as many cases as you like
- ▶ Enjoy fast sympathetic peer review and rapid publication of accepted articles
- ► Access all the published articles
- ► Re-use any of the published material for personal use and teaching without further permission

For information on Institutional Fellowships contact consortiasales@bmjgroup.com

Visit casereports.bmj.com for more articles like this and to become a Fellow