

BONE PIERCING THROUGH THE SUPERIOR MESENTERIC VEIN: A CASE OF FOREIGN BODY MIGRATION

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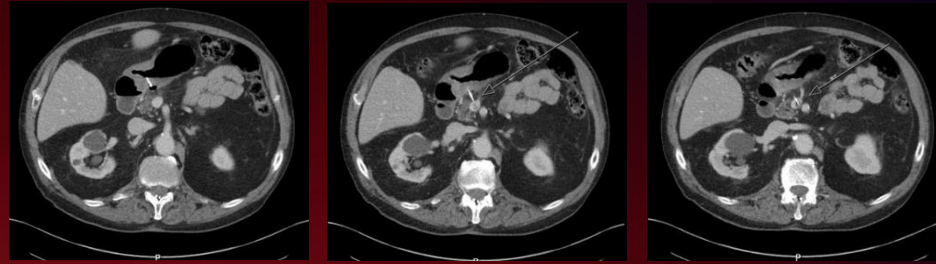
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CASE

An 86-year-old man presented with several days of abdominal pain. Computed tomography (CT) demonstrated a radiopaque object penetrating through the stomach into the superior mesenteric vein.

He was taken for exploratory laparotomy where a sharp object was noted to be extending through the posterior wall of the stomach. To control the body, an anterior gastrotomy was performed. The item was successfully removed from the vein and stomach without enlarging the perforation. On gross inspection the foreign body appeared to be consistent with a large fragment of bone.

On discussion with the patient, he noted consuming a large pork chop prior to the onset of his abdominal pain. He recovered well without significant complication and was able to return home. Subsequent follow up confirmed his continued convalescence.



CT Abdomen/Pelvis demonstrating an object in the posterior wall of the stomach extending into the SMV



Intra-operative photograph of the foreign object removed

DISCUSSION

The ingestion of foreign bodies is a common, with most objects passing through the gastrointestinal tract without intervention. These objects can result in obstruction, migration or perforation that requires surgical management about 1% of the time.

Dietary foreign bodies such as fish or chicken bones are frequently described in adults and can be associated with a high risk of complications.

The approach in intervention includes open, laparoscopic, or endoscopic removal. On the rare occasion that the object has migrated into adjacent structures, a surgical approach is recommended to address any extra-luminal damage. There are cases described of ingested foreign bodies removed from the pancreas, liver, and mediastinal structures. Even more infrequent are cases of migration into the vasculature. These cases were successfully managed surgically, as was in our experience.

