

Safe Removal of a Glass Pipe from The Esophagus Using Olive Oil

Iwamoto M^{1*}, Kikuchi H², Haruta A¹ and Moriyama M¹

¹Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Nihon University School of Medicine, 30-1 Oyaguchi-Kamicho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 173-8610, Japan

²Department of Gastroenterology, Kawaguchi Municipal Medical Center, 180 Nishiaraijuku, Kawaguchi-shi, Saitama 333-0833, Japan

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1. Clinical Image

A 50-year-old man swallowed a whole glass pipe and was admitted to our emergency department in an unconscious state.

His consciousness level was E1V1M1 on the Glasgow Coma Scale. After an amphetamine poisoning was diagnosed, the patient was treated with endotracheal intubation and ventilation. A computed tomography (CT) scan revealed a 30-mm glass pipe in the middle esophagus only (Figure 1). Esophago-gastroduodenoscopy (EGD) revealed that the glass pipe was causing complete esophageal impaction and could not be removed (Figure 2A). A second EGD performed the next day presented the same findings. Injecting olive oil into the esophagus resulted in release of the glass pipe. Despite release of the impaction, the glass pipe could not be grasped in the esophagus. Thus, initially, we endoscopically pushed the pipe into the stomach and confirmed that a part of the swallowed pipe was broken (Figure 2B, C). No glass pipe fragments were detected in the stomach. We secured the pipe with a collecting net (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan), orienting the sharp edge toward the mouth while keeping it inside the hood of the endoscope, allowing safe removal from the stomach. Immediately after removal, endoscopy was performed again, which confirmed that there was no ulceration of the esophageal mucosa. Four days later, the patient was discharged.

Most foreign bodies in the gastrointestinal tract are naturally excreted, but surgery is occasionally required or mortality is possible due to complete obstruction or perforation of the intestine. Endoscopy is often used to remove foreign bodies from the gastrointestinal tract and early removal is recommended for harmful foreign bodies [1-3].

However, this can be difficult and may require special skills and ingenuity.

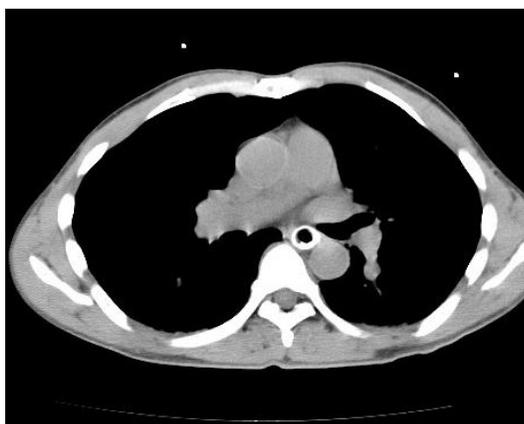


Figure 1: A glass pipe is lodged in the middle esophagus but there is no mediastinal emphysema.

*Corresponding Author (s): Maho Iwamoto, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Nihon University School of Medicine, 30-1 Oyaguchi-Kamicho, Itabashi-Ku, Tokyo 173-8610, Japan, Tel: +81-3-39728111, Fax: +81-3-39568496, E-mail: maho_9245@yahoo.co.jp

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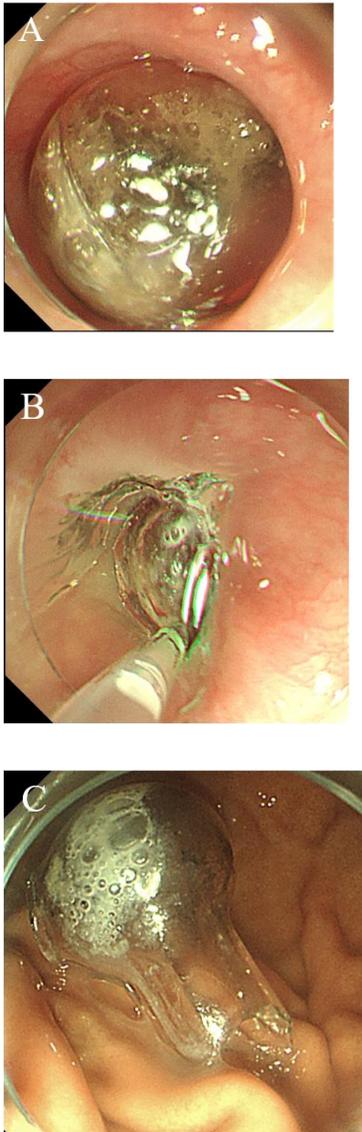


Figure 2: (A) A glass pipe can be seen to have caused complete esophageal impaction; removal of the pipe was not feasible. (B) Olive oil infusion into the esophagus. (C) The glass pipe in the stomach.

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