

Fantastic Course of Migratory Metallic Foreign Body and Its Removal

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Abstract

We report a 55-year-old female patient who presented with swelling over left side of neck with pain during deglutition. She had a history of ingesting the metallic object while eating 7 days back but exact what have ingested doesn't know to the patient as per history. On examination of the neck revealed a firm indurated swelling over left side of neck. Computed tomography scans were obtained it show the metallic foreign body in cricopharynx mostly towards left side. Direct laryngoscopy and oesophagoscope done to locate foreign body but foreign body was not found then the foreign body was easily removed under general anesthesia by lateral neck exploration approach. The patient recovered very well without any complications.

Keywords: Foreign body; Metallic object; Neck

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Introduction

Migratory movement of foreign body from the hypo pharynx to the superficial surface of neck is uncommon event. We came across a case of a 55-year-old female who accidentally swallowed a metallic wire as foreign body which was not detectable on our routine oesophagoscope and direct laryngoscopy in Operation Theater under GA. Then we thought that foreign may have migrated to the superficial part of the neck. We decided that proper evaluation of the case with aero digestive tract foreign body is crucial to avoid lethal fatal complications. These types of foreign body like Fish bones are the most commonly ingested foreign body. They may get stick in to the pharynx base of tongue anterior pillars tonsillar surface and mucosal layer of the gastrointestinal tract due to their linear shape and sharp edges, and can then cause serious complications if left untreated. In most of the cases, sharp foreign body like fish bones, chicken bone piece, metallic objects can be removed safely by direct 70 degree laryngoscope if they get stuck in to base of tongue tonsil lingual surface anterior pillars of tonsils, but few of them may migrate extraluminally to the surface skin of the neck in rare cases [1].

Case Report

A 55-year-old female presented to us with painful swallowing and swelling over left side of neck following history of ingestion of a metallic foreign body while eating food in hurry since 7

days. Examination of the oral cavity shows mild inflammatory changes in posterior pharyngeal wall. An attempt to visualize the cricopharynx and larynx by 70 degree scopy was unsuccessful because the patient had excessive cough reflex and uncomfortable to do examination on seating position. Patient have advised USG neck to rule out any neck abscess but USG show there was inflammatory swelling over left thyroid region anterior to left sternocleidomastoid no evidence of any fluid collection or abscess. We started patient with I. V. Antibiotics and analgesic to reduce the swelling and advised CT neck to rule out deep neck space abscess and thyroid inflammation to confirm what the exact pathology is. CT scan reported evidence of metallic foreign body approximately 33 mm which was placed obliquely in post cricoid area toward left side from midline as shown in **Figure 1**.

The patient was then posted for direct endoscopy examination in the form of oesophagoscopy and bronchoscopy and removal of the foreign body under general anesthesia by doing all routine blood investigation which were normal in range. We firstly attempted by use of direct laryngoscopy and then tried by using adult size oesophagoscopy to visualize foreign body under vision we tried it twice but attempt were unsuccessful there was only mucosal ulceration on left side of cricopharynx so we decided to remove foreign body by external neck approach **Figure 2**.

This foreign body was found to be metallic wire approx. 33 mm it was black thin wire as shown in **Figure 3**. Then the patient was discharged on the 5th day of operation with a 10 days course of antibiotics. On follow-up period clinically the patient was asymptomatic.

Discussion

Ingested foreign bodies are most commonly encountered challenging emergency in the ENT field they have been faced by all ENT clinicians. Many of the time, the foreign body gets lodged at the tonsil or the base of tongue [2]. An unnoticed foreign body will usually spontaneously pass out through the gastrointestinal tract without any complication. Spontaneous passage is usually related to the different size and type of the foreign body [3]. Fish bones are the most commonly ingested foreign body in our regional areas like Asian countries [1,4]. They have a tendency

to lodge in the posterior pharynx and mucosal layer of the gastrointestinal tract due to their linear shape and sharp edges, and can then cause serious complications if left untreated.

Migration of ingested foreign bodies is very rare in previous reported study they studied Twenty-four patients were reported with migration of foreign bodies within six years in Singapore [1,5]. The largest reported series was of 1088 cases of foreign body ingestion in China in comparison to all of these previous studies [3]. Most of the foreign bodies were reported to be lodged in the pharynx, esophagus, stomach, and duodenum. A sharp foreign body like fish bone, metallic wires has the ability to migrate to the surrounding structure in the neck like thyroid gland, carotid artery, mediastinum, or subcutaneous tissue due to the constant physiological activity of contraction and relaxation of the pharyngeal musculature, esophageal peristalsis, and surrounding tissue reactions [6-9].

Although plain x-ray is a simple and most important investigation to show the presence of radio opaque foreign body, Computed tomography imaging helps to detect the exact location of the impacted foreign body and thus allows for predicting and avoiding any possible complications, especially in the case of migration. In our case, it was necessary to do the computed tomography imaging prior to the surgery to assess the location of the impacted foreign body and its relation to the vital structures of the neck and avoid other possible fatal complications. An extraluminal foreign body has tendency to cause serious complications such as esophageal perforation, per esophageal abscess, retropharyngeal abscess, mediastinitis, arterioesophageal fistula, tracheoesophageal fistula, and carotid rupture. We managed to remove the fish bone from the subcutaneous tissue by making an adequate incision in the skin on left lateral side of neck after confirmation of the location of the metallic foreign body.

Conclusion

Foreign body ingestion is emergency should be managed as early as possible to prevent fatal and serious complications. It is important to ENT surgeon carefully examine the patient with a foreign body in the grave yard of oral cavity like at base of tongue, tonsil lingual sulcus floor of oral cavity and grave yard of larynx especially pyriform fossa lingual surface of epiglottis especially a fish bone, metallic sharp objects like staple pin, screw, nails, wires which has not been found or has been missed by routine oral on repeated examination or endoscopic examination under general anesthesia.

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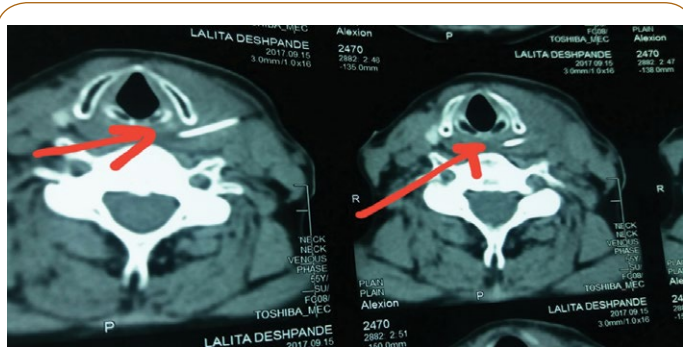


Figure 1 CT Scan showing metallic foreign body.

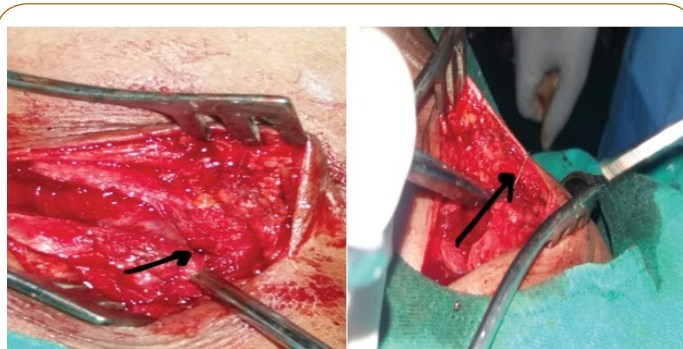


Figure 2 Foreign body metallic wire on neck exploration.



Figure 3 Metallic foreign body.

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