A rare cause of acute abdomen in an elderly patient

Rafael Sampaio1
Andréa Martin2
Rodolfo Queiroz3
Fred Bernardes Filho4

1. São Francisco Hospital - Department of Surgery, Ribeirão Preto/SP, Brasil
2. University of Ribeirão Preto - Medical School, Ribeirão Preto/SP, Brasil
3. Department of Radiology and Imaging Diagnosis, DOCUMENTA, Hospital São Francisco, Ribeirão Preto/SP, Brasil
4. Department of Internal Medicine, São Francisco Hospital, Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, Brasil

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An 83-year-old previously healthy woman arrived at the emergency department with a one-day history of intense abdominal pain in the epigastrium after eating. Generalized peritonitis was observed on physical examination; the patient had a pulse rate of 135/min, blood pressure of 86/40 mmHg and respiratory rate of 23/min. Computed tomography of the abdomen showed small bowel loop densification, pneumoperitoneum, jejunal diverticulum without inflammation signs, and a foreign body (Figures A-C). A small piece of chicken bone was found within the jejunal diverticulum (Figure D).

FIGURE (A) CT of the abdomen (coronal view), portal phase after intravenous administration of contrast showing regular parietal thickening in the jejunal segment (arrows) locoregionally associated with densification of its respective mesentery (arrowheads); (B) CT of the abdomen (axial view, lung window) showing intraperitoneal free focuses in an accentuated hypotenuation representing pneumoperitoneum; (C) CT of the abdomen (coronal view) showing high-density linear image within the jejunal segment, seemingly extending along its wall in the mesenteric side (foreign body); (D) Resected intraoperative specimen showing a jejunal diverticulum perforation by a chicken bone. In the upper right corner, note the chicken bone size in relation to the size of the scalpel handle.

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CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Fred Bernardes Filho
Av. Bandeirantes, 2900, Monte Alegre, Ribeirão Preto/SP, Brasil 14040-900
Tel: 55 16 982065490
E-mail: f9filho@gmail.com

cruzzios@hotmail.com
dealmartin@hotmail.com
rod_queiroz@hotmail.com
Segmental bowel resection with entero-enteroanastomosis was performed.

Accidental and unnoticed ingestion of foreign bodies is not very uncommon. A very small percentage of ingested foreign bodies can cause perforation of the bowel, leading to acute abdomen that requires surgical intervention. Foreign bodies such as dentures, fish bones, chicken bones, toothpicks, and cocktail sticks have been known to cause bowel perforation. Most of such foreign bodies pass through the gastrointestinal tract uneventfully and only on rare instances cause obstruction or perforation.1,2

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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**REFERENCES**


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**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Divertículo. Abdome agudo. Dor abdominal. Perfuração intestinal.