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EDITOR'S QUIZ: GI SNAPSHOT

Ingested foreign body, to remove or not to remove

Robin Spiller, Editor

Clinical presentation

A 24 year old male was admitted having swallowed a packet containing 17 tablets of buprinorphine (subutex) and complaining of dysphagia and odynophagia. On examination he was haemodynamically stable with a respiratory rate of 15/min and saturating at 96% on room air. Clinical examination was unremarkable and a chest x ray was normal. Endoscopy was requested by his admitting team.

At endoscopy the patient's oesophagus was normal and a packet of about 5×2×3 cm in size was seen in the stomach (fig 1).

Figure 1 Endoscopy of the stomach showing a packet of about 5×2×3 cm in size.

Question

What would you do next?

- Do nothing hoping that it would pass naturally?
- Retrieve using polypectomy snare or stone removal basket?
- Retrieve using Roth net?
- Do nothing and refer the patient for surgical removal of the packet?

See page 1155 for answer

This case is submitted by:

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