Rare case of neglected oesophageal safety pin in a seven month child

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Foreign bodies (FB) in the oesophagus is a common condition seen both in adults and children. Sharp objects like dentures, pins are serious in nature with complications resulting in high morbidity and mortality [1]. Early diagnosis and endoscopic/surgical removal is necessary to prevent complications [2].

A 7-month-old boy presented with a complaint of recurrent attacks of cough and fever of about 30 days duration. He was treated for bronchopneumonia by paediatricians in a village and referred to our hospital. X-ray chest revealed an open safety pin with tip pointing upwards in the upper oesophagus [Figs. 1, 2]. The pin was removed endoscopically causing severe oesophagitis with mucosal laceration.

Oesophageal foreign bodies in children are common between the ages of 6 months to 3 years. The common objects are coins, chicken or fish bones, buttons, marbles, screws, button batteries and straight pins [3]. Severity of symptoms depends upon size, type, site and period of FB lodged in oesophagus. Common symptoms are dysphagia, odynophagia and respiratory symptoms [2, 4].

Endoscopic extraction of oesophageal foreign body is the choice of treatment with high success rate 83% [3].

Fig. 1 X-ray chest AP and lateral view

Fig. 2 Rusted safety pin removed from oesophagus

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