

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

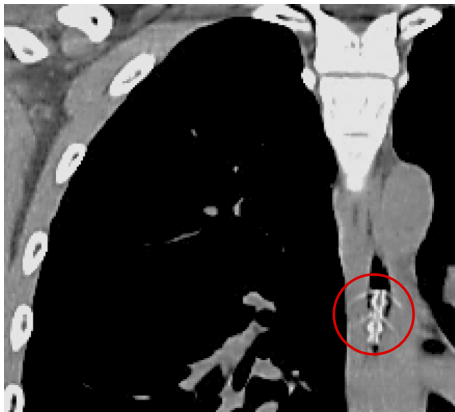
Pneumothorax Secondary to an Ingested Fish Bone

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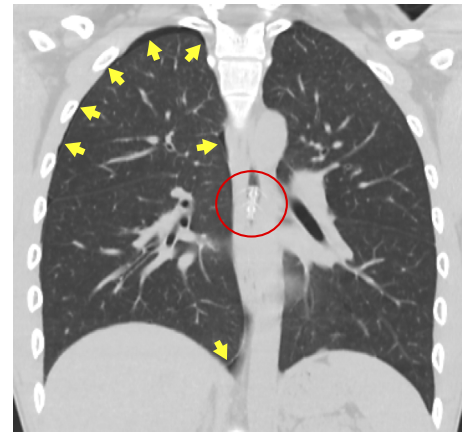
Key words: fish bone, pneumothorax, esophageal perforation, sharp objects

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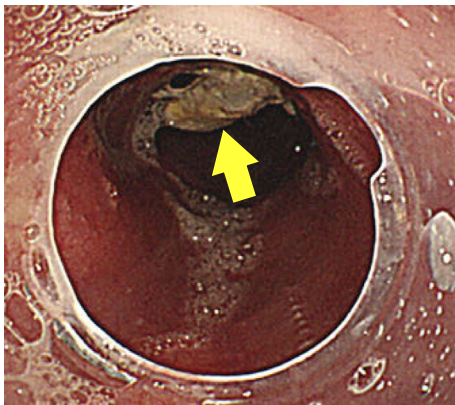
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Picture 1.



Picture 2.



Picture 3.



Picture 4.

A 20-year-old man presented to the outpatient clinic of our hospital with gradually worsening chest pain exacerbated by motion. His symptoms had begun the evening prior to presentation following ingestion of grilled frozen mackerel. His condition worsened after swallowing cornflakes at

breakfast on the day of presentation. Computed tomography revealed right-sided pneumomediastinum and pneumothorax (Picture 1, 2). Emergency esophageal endoscopy revealed a fish bone stuck head-side-up at the thoracic esophagus (Picture 3), which was retrieved using a foreign body removal

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hood and gripping forceps (Picture 4). Fish bones are a common foreign body that cause esophageal perforation in East Asia. However, pneumothorax after fish bone ingestion is rare (1, 2). Clinicians should consider pneumothorax in the differential diagnosis when examining patients with esophageal obstruction due to sharp objects.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

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