

## IMAGES IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

## Gastrointestinal

# Man with abdominal pain

Jessica Vittorelli DO<sup>1</sup> | Dakota Davidson DO<sup>1</sup> | Jacqueline Le MD<sup>1</sup>  | Eugene Hu MD<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Desert Regional Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine, Palm Springs, California, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, Riverside University Health System Medical Center, Moreno Valley, California, USA

**Correspondence**

Jacqueline Le, MD, Desert Regional Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine, Palm Springs, CA 92262, USA.

Email: [JKL217@gmail.com](mailto:JKL217@gmail.com); [jacqueline.le@vituity.com](mailto:jacqueline.le@vituity.com)

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## 1 | PATIENT PRESENTATION

A 33-year-old man with a history of severe developmental delay, schizophrenia, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia presented to the emergency department for 1 day of worsening abdominal pain and vomiting. Physical examination demonstrated right hypogastric and right lower quadrant abdominal tenderness. Vital signs were normal as was laboratory workup. Computerized tomography demonstrated multiple radiopaque densities within the stomach (Figure 1).

## 2 | DIAGNOSIS: GASTRIC OUTLET OBSTRUCTION FROM FOREIGN BODY INGESTION

Due to the extensive foreign body burden, the patient underwent laparotomy. Sixty-three intact dominoes were retrieved from his stomach (Figure 2).

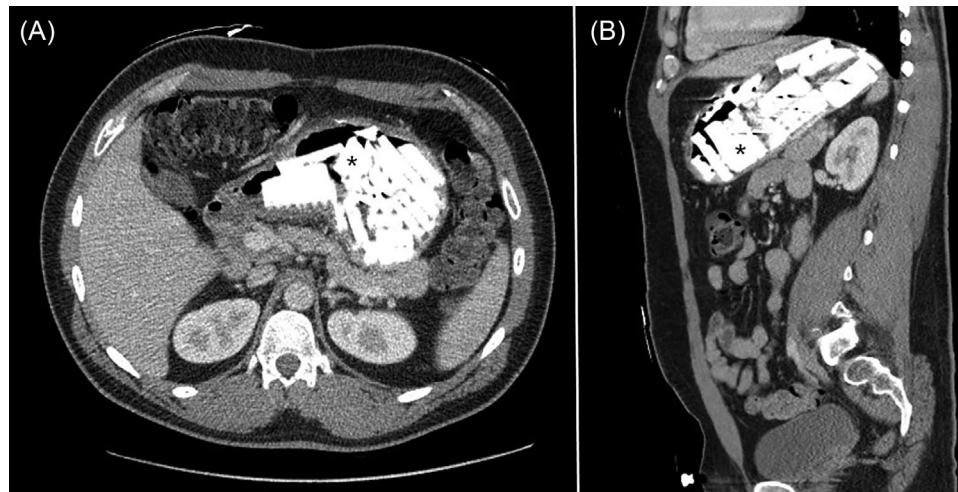
Intentional ingestion of foreign objects is a perplexing issue because of the vulnerable patient population it affects as well as the obscurity of the best treatment course.<sup>1</sup> Previous literature has subdivided the motivation to perform this behavior into 4 groups: malingering, psychosis, pica, and personality disorders.<sup>2</sup> Malingering is often seen in patients who reside in prisons or psychiatric facilities. Psychosis causing ingestion most often occurs in patients with schizophrenia or dementia. Pica is commonly seen in patients with developmental delay or autism. In patients with personality disorders, ingestion may be used as a tool to demonstrate parasuicidal behavior.<sup>2</sup> One study reviewed 305 visits to the emergency department for intentional ingestion of foreign bodies and found that just 33 patients accounted for these visits, with 79% having an underlying psychiatric disorder.<sup>3</sup> Along with appropriate medical management, it is important to initiate psychiatric, behavioral, and pharmaceutical treatments for the root cause of this disease process.

**ORCID**

Jacqueline Le MD  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9076-9611>

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**FIGURE 1** Axial (A) and sagittal (B) views of computed tomography of the abdomen and pelvis, demonstrating numerous ingested dominoes (asterisk) within the stomach.



**FIGURE 2** Intraoperative photograph of the 63 dominoes removed from the patient's stomach.

## REFERENCES

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