

# Esophageal perforation and septic shock after accidental coin ingestion in elderly

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## Abstract

An 88-year-old man ingested coins accidentally and developed mediastinitis and septic shock. Esophageal injuries by sharped-shape foreign bodies are often reported, but esophageal perforation by round coins is rare. Even rounded-shape foreign bodies that are unlikely to injure esophagus may lead to severe outcomes.

## Esophageal perforation and septic shock after accidental coin ingestion in elderly

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## Key clinical message

A coin is a frequent cause of foreign body ingestion, which is usually expected spontaneous passing safely. Even round-shaped foreign bodies may injure the esophagus developing mediastinitis and septic shock.

## Key words

foreign body ingestion, coin, esophageal perforation, mediastinitis, septic shock,

## Abstract

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## CASE

An 88-year-old man was transferred by ambulance with hypotension and impaired consciousness. X-ray showed a radiolucent area around the mediastinum and a coin in the stomach (**Figure 1**). Computed tomography imaging revealed mediastinal emphysema and a hyperintense gastric foreign body (**Figure 2A, 2B**). The patient was diagnosed with septic shock due to esophageal perforation by accidental ingestion of coins and subsequent mediastinitis. The patient was managed with antibiotics and esophageal drainage, and his physical condition showed improvement. On day 25, the patient developed hemorrhagic gastric ulcer after prolonged fasting, and endoscopic clipping was performed in the pyloric region. Two coins (22.6 mm diameter) were removed from the gastric body region (**Figure 3A, 3B**). After the hemostasis and transfusion, he developed aspiration pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome, then passed away on day 34.

Coins are one of the most common esophageal foreign bodies in adults and it is usually expected spontaneous passing safely. Esophageal perforation due to foreign bodies is rare at 0.91%<sup>1</sup>. While esophageal injuries after sharp edges ingestion, including fish bones and press-through-packs, are often experienced, perforation after rounded-shape coin ingestion is rarely reported.<sup>2</sup> Even foreign bodies considered unlikely to injure the esophagus may cause perforation and lead to a critical course.

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## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None declared

## **ETHICS STATEMENT**

None

## **WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE PATIENT**

We have obtained the consent of the patient for publication.

## **DETAILED AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION**

YI, YM: cared for the patient. YM: got the patient consent form. YI, HN: prepared the clinical picture, and wrote the report. HN, YM: read and approved the final version of the report.

## **DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**

None

## **REFERENCE**

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