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Case Report

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Cautious Approach by Dentists- Need of Hour

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ABSTRACT

The children below three years of age are more predisposed for swallowing foreign body, luckily majority of them pass spontaneously without any complications. The endoscopic removal is required in approximately in 10 to 20 percent of patients. Further, in 1 % in which endoscopy fails or is not indicated require removal by surgery. As expected, mortality is low with foreign body ingestion but in rare cases death has been reported which usually occurs with sharp edged foreign bodies. The mentally retarded children are more predisposed and coins or toys are usual culprit. are the most common foreign bodies ingested by children. In certain cases, accidental ingestion of foreign body can occur in adults, especially in old age when reflexes become weak or during dental treatment. We hereby report a case report of a 45-year-old male whose dental cap got slipped into stomach while undergoing dental treatment on a dental chair.

Keywords: Dental Cap, Dental treatment, Endoscopy, Foreign Body, Dental Chair

Introduction

The children below three years of age are more predisposed for swallowing foreign body, luckily majority of them pass spontaneously without any complications [1-3]. The endoscopic removal is required in approximately in 10 to 20 percent of patients. Further, in 1 % in which endoscopy fails or is not indicated require removal by surgery [1,2,4]. As expected, mortality is low with foreign body ingestion but in rare cases death has been reported which usually occurs with sharp edged foreign bodies [2,5,6] . Dentures are most common cause of foreign body swallowing in old age. In one case series, 6 patients had slipped dentures and most common reason was ill-fitting or looseness of the dentures. All of them were located in stomach and were successfully removed endoscopically [7].

Case Report

A fourty five-year-old male, having no significant past history was undergoing dental treatment. He was sitting on dental chair and root canal treatment was being done. During it by mistake the dental cap of neighbouring tooth got dislodged and was swallowed by the patient. It led to panic both in the treating dentist and patient also. Out of fear of patient wrath, the dentist and other team members, immediately made patient to eat two bananas, thinking that it will form layer around slipped dental cap, so that it does not damage stomach and get easily passed out with faeces. This was mistake on their part because, ideally for endoscopic removal patient should be fasting. After making eat bananas, this patient was brought into endoscopy room for removal of slipped dental cap. Patient was immediately subjected to endoscopy which as expected showed white solid food residue due to banana in fundus and dental cap was hidden in the same. Thus, first all this food residue was cleaned with water and aspirated which took unnecessary fifteen minutes and after fundus view was cleared, dental cap became visible and banana residue was even stucked in hollow space of dental cap. This dental cap was removed with help of foreign body forceps and patient was discharged after observation for few hours in haemodynamically stable condition. There was no complaints of patient on follow up.

Conclusion

The are plenty of case reports about slipping of foreign bodies into stomach during dental treatment as well as artificial dentures.

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dentures. In some cases, they get stuck up in oesophagus and are not amenable to endoscopic removal and condition become life threatening, thus requiring urgent surgery for saving life. Thus, dentists should be utmost cautious while doing dental treatment for avoiding any such inadvertent condition which could be troublesome both for patient as well as treating dentist.

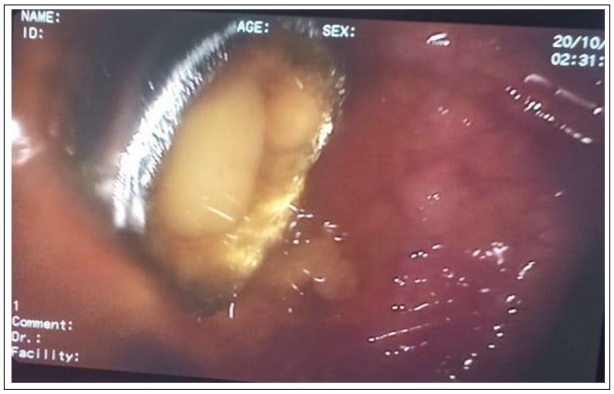

Figure 1: showing slipped dental cap in stomach

Figure 2: showing dental cap after endoscopic removal

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there was no conflict of interest or any kind of funding was taken for publishing this case report.

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