



Unusual esophageal foreign body: Metal bottle cap

Özofagusta beklenmeyen yabancı cisim: Metal şişe kapağı

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To the Editor,

Foreign bodies (FB) of esophagus are frequently an emergency encountered in gastroenterology clinic practice. Food bolus impactions and sharp-pointed objects were the most common FB of esophagus, and the cervical esophagus was the most frequent impaction site (1). Metal bottle cap is rarely swallowed and there are only a few published cases (2,3). Because of their size and shape, management of the bottle cap in the esophagus represents a major challenge for endoscopists (3). Here, we present a very rare cause foreign body - a metal bottle cap - in the upper esophagus which was extracted endoscopically.

20-year-old man was admitted to the emergency department with dysphagia, sialorrhea and foreign body sensation after inadvertently swallowing a metal bottle cap. He had no other diseases on previous medical history. Physical examination was unremarkable. Laboratory values were normal. Computed tomography (CT) and 3-dimensional CT revealed a foreign body (a metal cap) in the upper part of the esophagus (Figure 1A and 1B). The patient underwent endoscopy within two hours, and the metal bottle cap was seen in the proximal esophagus. During endoscopy procedure foreign body fell to the stomach and then the foreign body

was safely withdrawn using alligator jaw grasping forceps from the stomach. The foreign body was a metal cap of soda bottle (Figure 2A and 2B). After removal of the metal bottle cap, the control endoscopy revealed no sign of complications related to foreign body, and endoscopic treatment. His complaints were resolved and was discharged with full recovery. The patient gave written consent regarding this article.

Foreign body impaction was observed commonly (4) and often occur in the esophagus (4,5). Most of the esophageal FB are impacted at the upper esophagus at the narrowest part which was surrounded by cricopharyngeus muscle (5). To make a diagnosis of esophageal FB, the patient's history, symptoms, and physical examinations are important (1). The most common symptoms in patients with a foreign FB in the esophagus are foreign body sensation and dysphagia. Hypersalivation, retrosternal fullness, choking, hiccups and retching, odynophagia are other symptoms related to FB (6).

Radiological and CT evaluation is not routinely recommended in the diagnosis of FB ingestion. However, radiological and CT evaluation can be used to evaluate the location, size, shape, and number of

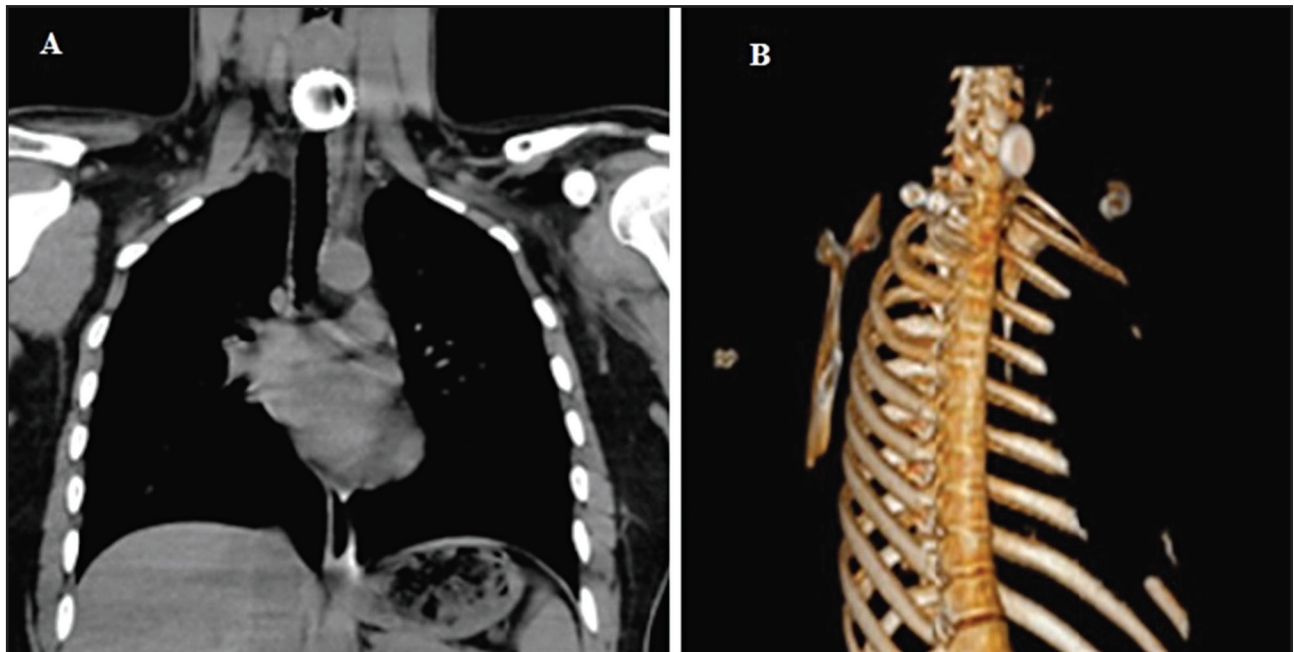


Figure 1 CT images showing foreign metallic body (metal bottle cap) in the upper esophagus (**A**. Coronal section of foreign body, **B**. 3D image).

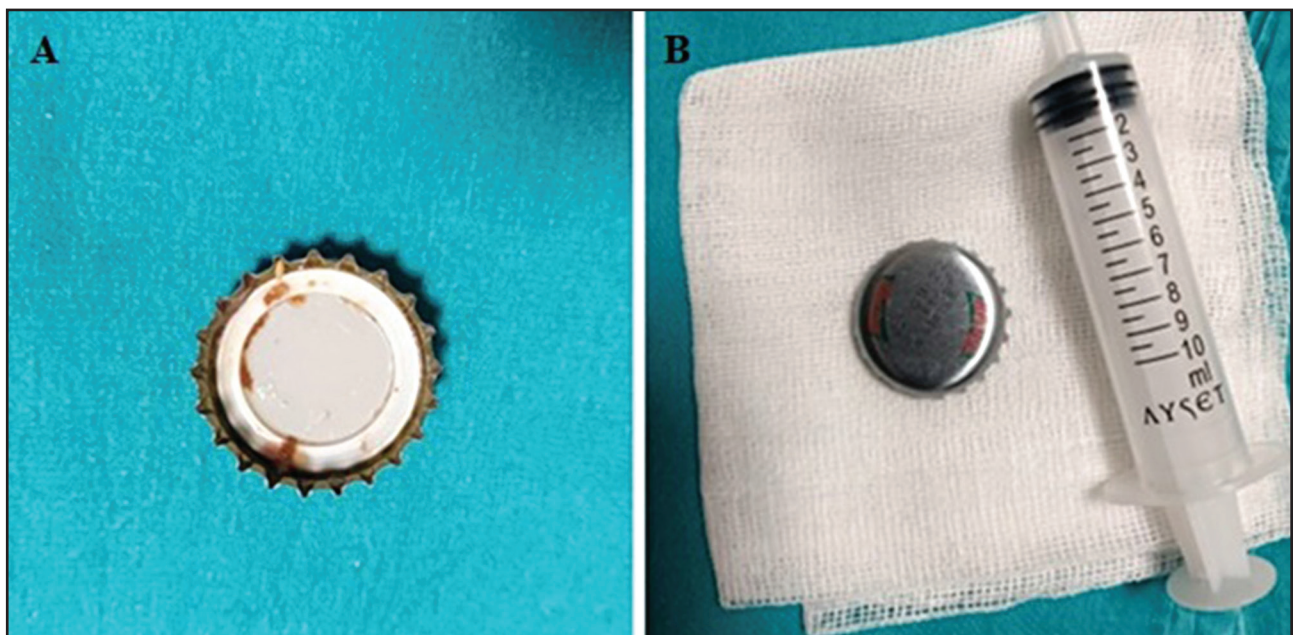


Figure 2 Removed metal bottle cap (**A**. Image from downside, **B**. Image from upside).

foreign bodies and to reveal the presence of complications such as perforation (1). Particularly when 3-dimensional reconstruction with I.V. contrast is

performed, with a high sensitivity and specificity for detection of a FB. In our patient, both CT and 3-D CT examinations had been performed in the

emergency department. CT showed a FB (a metal cap) in the upper esophagus, but no FB related perforation was detected.

Flexible endoscopy is the most used method in the diagnosis and removal of esophageal FB with low risk of complications. Endoscopy may also reveal underlying esophageal diseases such as cancer and strictures. Guidelines recommends emergency endoscopy within two hours preferably or in six hours at latest in food bolus impactions and FB in patients with evidence of complete esophageal obstruction, for sharp-pointed objects and disk batteries (1).

Foreign body in the cervical esophagus more difficult than other locations and prone to complications (1). Since esophagus wall is thin and there are physiological strictures such as cricopharyngeal sphincter. Besides, limited working space of cervical esophagus makes endoscopic removal of the serrated edges of metal bottle tops pose a hazard of luminal injury and hinder passage through narrower spaces like the esophagus or pylorus. Since metal bottle cap is sharp object, endoscopic treatment should be done quickly. In our case, endoscopic procedure was performed in two hours after consultation from emergency department.

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