

Title:

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Transparent cap-assisted endoscopic retrieval of a sharp foreign body in the esophagus

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Key words: Foreign body. Esophagus. Endoscopy. Retrieval. Transparent cap.

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Dear Editor,

We present an 80-year-old woman who was referred to the emergency unit with acute onset of dysphagia. She said that she might have ingested a foreign body accidentally. Physical examination was unremarkable. Transparent cap-assisted

endoscopy disclosed an impacted press-through package (PTP) in the upper esophagus (Fig. 1A). The PTP was grasped by the forceps, inserted into the cap, and removed carefully without complication (Fig. 1B).

Accidental ingestion of PTPs frequently occurs in the elderly. Ingestion of sharp-pointed foreign bodies, such as PTPs, blades, needles, and fish bones, has serious risks of gastrointestinal perforation and hemorrhage; therefore, emergent endoscopic removal has been recommended by the clinical guidelines.¹ In order to minimize mucosal injury during endoscopic retrieval, several protective devices have been applied, including an overtube, latex rubber hood or glove, and a transparent cap.^{1, 2} Among them, transparent cap-assisted endoscopy is a simple, safe, and effective method with a shorter procedure time and clearer visual field compared with conventional endoscopy.^{3, 4} In conclusion, we wish to emphasize that this method has advantages and a potential to be used for endoscopic retrieval of small sharp foreign bodies.

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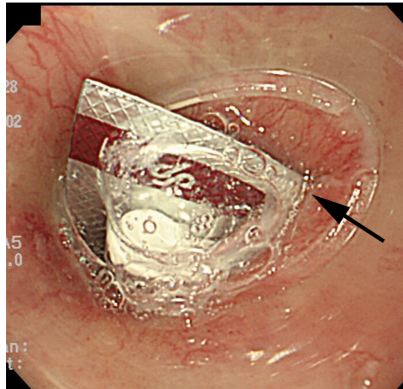


Figure 1A

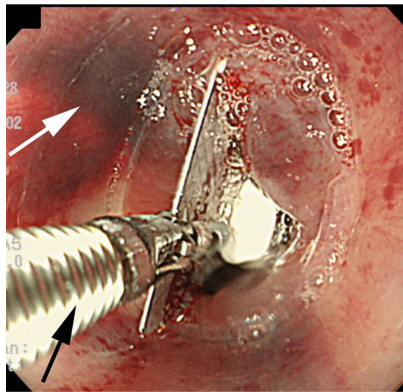


Figure 1B

Fig. 1. A. Transparent cap-assisted endoscopy disclosing a sharp press-through package (arrow) impacted in the upper esophagus.

B. The press-through package was grasped by the forceps (black arrow) and the whole package was inserted into the cap. There was intramucosal hematoma (white arrow) which might have been caused by accidental swallowing the sharp package.