

PICTURES IN DIGESTIVE PATHOLOGY

The missing piece

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A 59-year-old female, without a relevant past medical history or medication intake, was admitted to the Emergency Department due to sudden dysphagia after having eaten bread and the suspicion of food impaction.

An upper endoscopy revealed an indeterminate, bluish foreign body in the mid esophagus (Fig. 1) that was extracted with a forceps. After removal, it was clear that it was a puzzle piece (Fig. 2). The patient recalled that, earlier that day, she had been playing with a puzzle with her granddaughter, while she was eating bread.

Puzzle pieces as an ingested foreign body in the adult population are very uncommon. The most common cause of esophageal foreign body obstruction in adults is meat bolus impaction above a pre-existing distal esophageal ring, peptic or malignant esophageal stricture, or eosin-

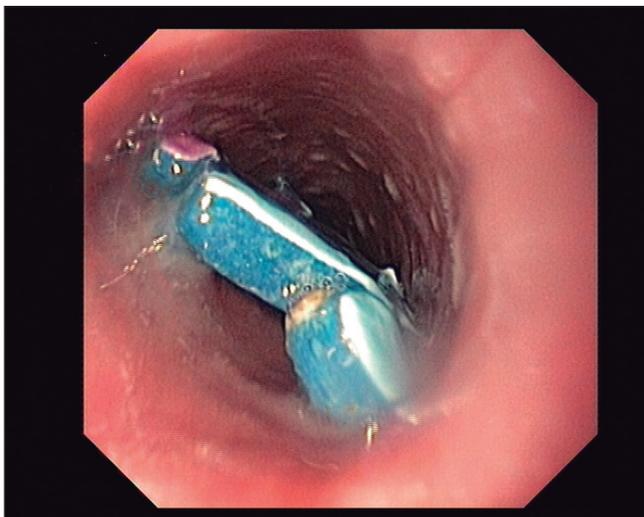


Fig. 1. Upper endoscopy revealed an indeterminate, bluish foreign body in the mid esophagus.

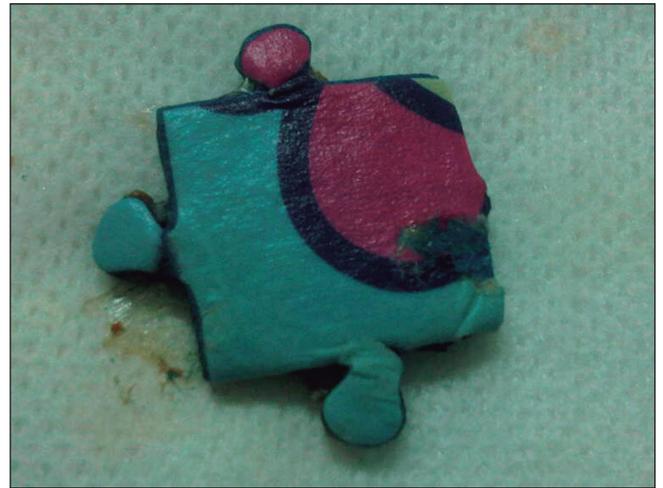


Fig. 2. After removal with a forceps, it was possible to see it was a puzzle piece.

ophilic esophagitis (1). The majority of foreign body ingestions occur in the pediatric population; in adults, individuals with psychiatric disorders, development delay, alcohol intoxication and incarceration are more prone to foreign body ingestion. The majority of ingested foreign bodies pass spontaneously and mortality rates are extremely low (2).

REFERENCES

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