

A large asymptomatic foreign body in larynx and trachea

Mehdi Ghaffarlou¹, Samad E. J. Golzari¹, Nariman Nezami²

¹Department of Anesthesiology, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran; ²The Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Correspondence to: Nariman Nezami, MD. The Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 North Wolfe Street, 367A East Park Building, Baltimore, Maryland 21287, USA. Email: nnezami1@jhmi.edu.

Abstract: A 41-year-old asymptomatic man was referred to emergency department complaining of severe dyspnea. He had a history of psychosis and had been taking Biperiden and Lithium carbonate since 17 years ago. Imaging studies showed multiple foreign bodies in the trachea, which were extracted.

Keywords: Dyspnea; foreign body; psychosis; chest X-ray

Submitted Jan 03, 2014. Accepted for publication Apr 03, 2014.

doi: 10.3978/j.issn.2223-4292.2014.04.01

View this article at: <http://www.amepc.org/qims/article/view/3715/4706>

A 41-year-old asymptomatic man was referred to emergency department complaining of severe dyspnea. He had a history of psychosis and had been taking Biperiden and Lithium carbonate since 17 years ago. Routine imaging evaluation by posteroanterior and lateral chest radiographies showed a large foreign body in the trachea without subcutaneous, or mediastinal emphysema (*Figure 1*).

The primary diagnosis of swallowing metallic object was made. Then, he was referred to the division of endoscopy and other foreign bodies were demonstrated in the trachea.

Two screws (3.5 cm) were extracted from the hypopharynx and the orifice of esophagus by flexible esophagoscopy, whereas a large metal object was revealed in the larynx and trachea (*Figure 2*); impossible to be extracted by flexible forceps.

The largest metal object (*Figure 3*) was extracted under general anesthesia by rigid bronchoscopy without complication and further abnormality at bronchoscopy. The patient had a good recovery profile while the anti-psychosis treatment was continued.

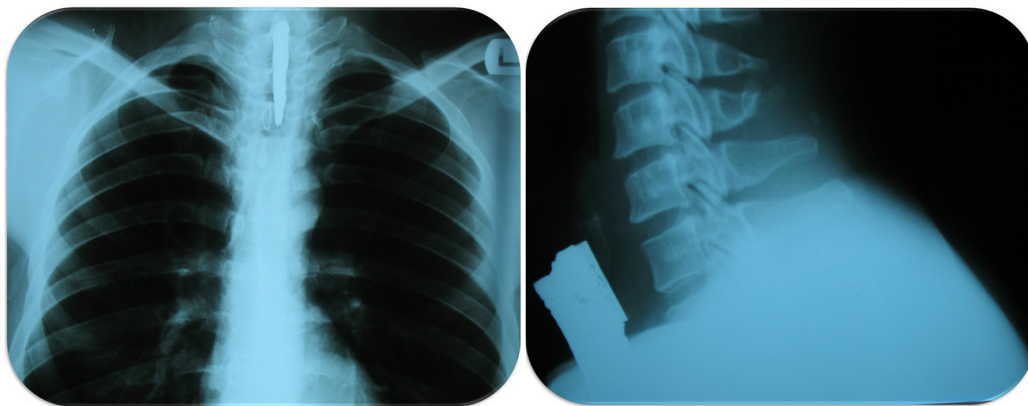


Figure 1 Chest X-rays showed a large foreign body in the trachea without any abnormality.

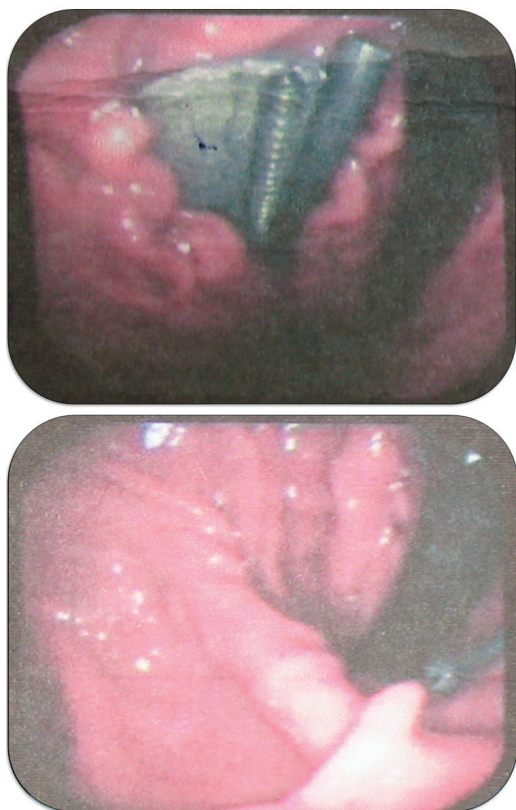


Figure 2 Endoscopy revealed other foreign bodies in the trachea.



Figure 3 The largest foreign body which was extracted under general anesthesia by rigid bronchoscopy. The size of foreign body was measured 6.5 cm × 2.1 cm × 0.4 cm.

Acknowledgements

Disclosure: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Cite this article as: Ghaffarlou M, Golzari SE, Nezami N. A large asymptomatic foreign body in larynx and trachea. *Quant Imaging Med Surg* 2014;4(3):210-211. doi: 10.3978/j.issn.2223-4292.2014.04.01