



A Rare Foreign Body Aspiration: A Deciduous Tooth

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Clinical Image

Foreign body aspiration (FBA) is an important problem with high morbidity and mortality which is encountered especially before 3 years of age during childhood. Acute-onset cough, wheezing and unilaterally reduced respiratory sounds are among the most common signs in foreign body aspirations. FBs aspirated into respiratory tract are commonly organic substances such as nuts and they are not directly visible radiologically.

In this case report, a 9 year-old female patient who aspirated her tooth that was removed with Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy (FOB) is reported.

The patient was brought to us by her parents because of absence of a previously loosen tooth when she woke up. In physical examination performed on admission, there was reduced aeration in the left lung. In the posterior-anterior chest X-ray performed, a foreign body which was thought to stuck within left main bronchus was observed (Figure 1). The foreign body (tooth) was removed from the left main bronchus via FOB and the patient was discharged with cure (Figure 2).

While majority of the aspirated foreign bodies are comprised of foods, aspiration of several different foreign bodies may occur, as in our case. Foreign body aspiration is commonly encountered

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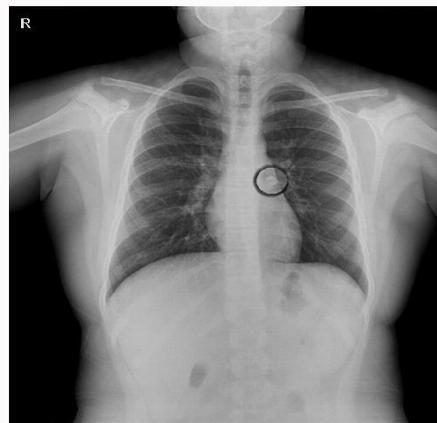


Figure 1: Foreign body which was thought to stuck within left main bronchus.

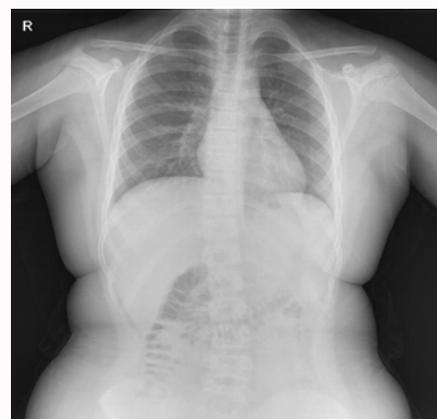


Figure 2: Foreign body (tooth) was removed from the left main bronchus.

before 3 years of age; however, it should be remembered that it may occur during school age, as in our case, and at any age and that a particular attention should always be given to history. In our case, the fact that the event occurred at home and that they knew the aspirated

tooth had been loosen reveals the need for parents to be trained about FBA. Family training will contribute to prevention of preventable child deaths.