

UNUSUAL FOREIGN BODY IN THE LEFT MAIN BRONCHUS

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ABSTRACT

The paper present the images about a case of unusual foreign body in the left main bronchus that was removed with a very risky maneuver.

KEYWORDS Bronchoscopy, foreign body, needle, rigid bronchoscopy

Case report

A 30 years old man, after having injected a dose of heroin, was washing his syringe while holding the syringe needle (23G) between his lips. He had an overdose syndrome and during the crisis inhaled the needle into the airway. He was rescued and treated for the overdose but the needle was not found, and no one could imagine where it was. After three months the patient began to have hemoptysis. Radiological studies showed the presence of the needle in the left main bronchus (Fig. 1). The patient underwent rigid bronchoscopy. The tip of the needle was inserted precisely to the tracheal carina, and the needle hub was stuck in the lower lobe bronchus (Fig. 2). The needle was completely blocked, so it was impossible to push the needle distally so as to remove the tip. After many attempts of mobilization, the surgeon took a risky decision. He grabbed the needle with biopsy forceps and pulled out the foreign body vigorously. During the passage through the rigid bronchoscope, the needle was deformed as in Fig. 3. Fortunately, there were no major lacerations, and the patient was discharged the following day in good general clinical condition.

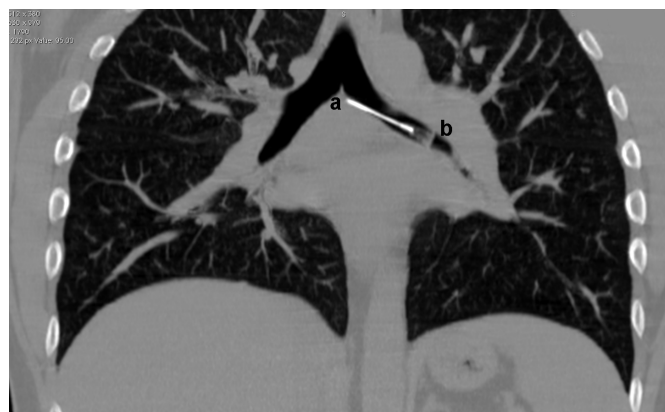


Fig 1. The foreign body as seen on chest x-ray. A) needle tip; B) needle hub.

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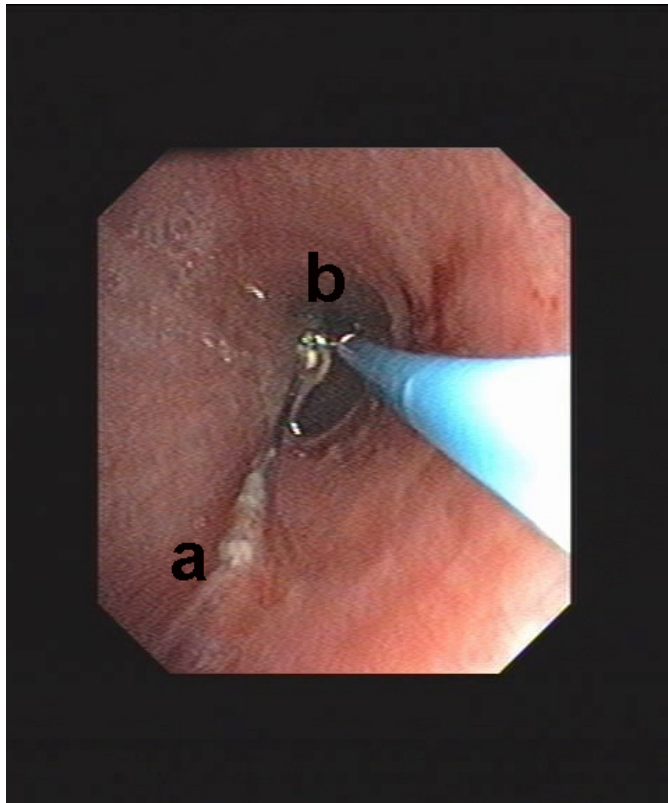


Fig 2. A) The tip of the needle stuck in the tracheal mucosa. B) The needle hub gripped by endoscopic forceps in attempt to pull out the needle.

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References

None

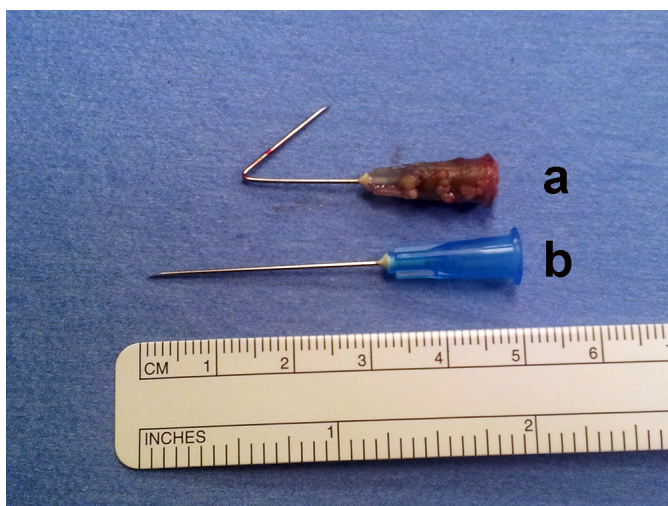


Fig.3 The curved 23G needle (a) in comparison with a normal one (b).