Endoscopic removal of an embedded esophageal fishbone with rat tooth forceps

A 56-year-old woman presented to our hospital with a sore throat after having eaten a fish 15 days earlier. Computed tomography (CT) revealed a strip of high-density shadow embedded in the anterior wall of the proximal esophagus. Endoscopy only demonstrated a localized bulge of the esophagus with smooth mucosa (Fig. 1). Endoscopic ultrasonography suggested a hyperechoic lesion in the esophageal submucosa with posterior shadowing (Fig. 2). Based on these examinations, a diagnosis of fishbone invasion into the esophageal submucosa was considered, so we performed an endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) but failed to find the fishbone. We therefore attempted to find the fishbone using a rat tooth forceps, and this was successful (Fig. 3). A 2-cm-long fishbone was extracted with the forceps (Fig. 4) and the wound was clamped closed with several metal clips (Video 1).

In conclusion, rat tooth forceps may be a good choice to find a fishbone that remains hidden after ESD.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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