A 56-year-old male was admitted to our department with a 2-month history of recurrent lower abdominal pain accompanied periodically by fever. He had lost 7 kg in weight and had no history of melena or change in bowel habits or stool caliber. Plain abdominal radiography and computed tomography (CT) scans were normal. Colonoscopy revealed a wooden toothpick of 7 cm in length that had impacted with both ends embedded in the sigmoid wall at the rectosigmoid junction. Mucosal edema and erythema were also apparent (Fig. 1). The toothpick was removed in one piece using foreign-body extraction forceps. There was some white discharge, hyperemia, and a small amount of bleeding on the surface of the impacted colonic mucosa (Figs. 2 and 3).

The procedure was difficult due to the position of the toothpick and very active peristalsis. The postprocedure abdominal radiography was negative for pneumoperitoneum. Intravenous treatment with broad-spectrum antibiotics was started and continued for 7 days; the patient made a full recovery. Retrospective anamnesis revealed that the patient had eaten meat rolls and a large volume of alcoholic drinks during a party about 5 weeks before.

Most ingested foreign bodies pass through the gastrointestinal tract spontaneously without any adverse effects. However, 10–20% require endoscopic removal and about 1% require early surgery [1]. When impaction of such foreign bodies is diagnosed in time, successful endoscopic management is possible.

**Competing interests:** None

**Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AB_2AF**

R. Grabysa¹, R. Łowczak¹, M. Kubiak¹, M. Kowalczyk², P. Zaborowski¹

¹ Department of Internal Diseases, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University Hospital, Warmia and Mazury University, Olsztyn, Poland

² Department of General and Minimally Invasive Surgery, University Hospital, Warmia and Mazury University, Olsztyn, Poland

**References**


**Bibliography**


Endoscopy 2010; 42: E203

© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

**Corresponding author**

R. Grabysa, MD, PhD

Department of Internal Diseases, Gastroenterology and Hepatology

University Hospital

Warmia and Mazury University

Warszawska 30

10082 Olsztyn

Poland

Fax: +48-89-5413093

rgraby@wp.pl