

## Retrieval of a bread bag clip from the duodenum

A 73-year-old woman presented with iron deficiency anemia and melena. Biochemical parameters revealed a hemoglobin of 77 g/L and urea 8.5 mmol/L with normal renal indices. She was transfused with 2 units of red blood cells. Gastroscopy revealed a bread clip embedded in D1 (showing the date Friday, 13 April;

► **Fig. 1**), pinching the distal and proximal duodenal roof fold and dangling like an earring. Attempts to remove the clip by crushing with grasping forceps, cutting with a needle-knife device, and snapping with snare were unsuccessful. A gastric band cutter (Endotherapeutics, Sydney, Australia) was employed endoscopically. The cutting wire was threaded between the bread clip and the duodenum (► **Fig. 2**), and the free end was retrieved and locked into the racheting device, forming a loop. Tightening of the loop resulted in the wire snapping the clip, which was then retrieved orally (► **Fig. 3**).

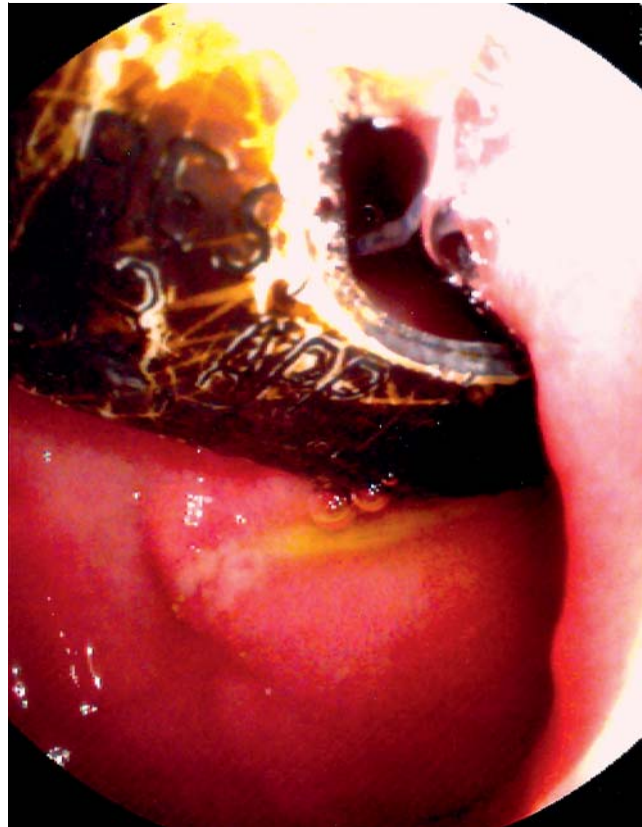
Only 21 cases of bread clip ingestion have been reported since 1975. Most cases present as small-bowel perforation requiring bowel resection [1]. Bread clips are made of plastic and are therefore non-degradable. With an aging population, we postulate that such cases will be increasingly seen [2]. The shape of the clip results in a traplike effect, which prevents easy removal once it is embedded [3]. Endoscopic removal of embedded foreign bodies can require taking a unique approach. This is the first reported case of the use of a gastric band cutter to divide an embedded foreign body followed by successful retrieval.

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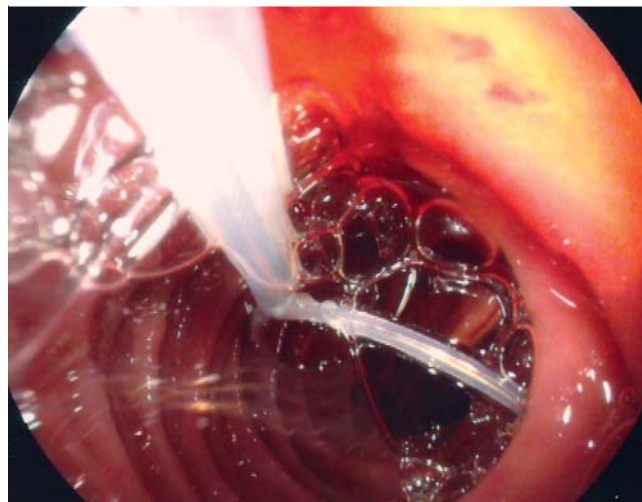
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**Fig. 1** Bread clip embedded in first part of duodenum in a 73-year-old woman presented with iron deficiency anemia and melena. There is linear erosion on the posterior wall.



**Fig. 2** The cutting wire was fed down the duodenum.



**Fig. 3** The bread clip was divided and then retrieved orally.

## References

- 1 Newell KJ, Taylor B, Walton JC et al. Plastic bread-bag clips in the gastrointestinal tract: report of 5 cases and review of the literature. *CMAJ* 2000; 162: 527–529
- 2 Beer T. Fatalities from bread tag ingestion. *Med J Aust* 2002; 176: 506
- 3 Tang A, Kong A, Walsh D et al. Small bowel perforation due to a plastic bread bag clip: The case for clip redesign. *ANZ J Surg* 2005; 75: 360–362

## Bibliography

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