A Foreign Body in the Duodenum

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Figure 1. Abdominal computed tomographic scan showing a foreign body in the duodenum

Figures 2. Three-dimensional computed tomographic scan showing the object was a suction cup.

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Figure 3. A typical suction cup.

A 64-year-old woman presented with a 3-month history of repeated vomiting. She had a 60-year history of traumatic epilepsy and mental retardation. Laboratory findings and an abdominal radiograph were normal. A computed tomographic scan showed a foreign body in the duodenum (Fig. 1, arrow). A three-dimensional computed (3D-CT) tomographic scan revealed that the object was a suction cup (Figs. 2A, 2B; Fig. 3 shows a typical suction cup). Although these days most ingested foreign bodies can be removed endoscopically, in this case endoscopic removal was not successful and thus we are now considering surgical removal. This is an interesting example of the use of 3D-CT to identify foreign bodies.