Acute Appendicitis Caused by an Ingested Bony Fragment

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A 54-year-old man presented with intermittent periumbilical pain and a small caliber of stool lasting for one month. A kidneys-ureters-bladder showed no definitive opaque stones (Picture 1a). Abdominal computed tomography revealed a calcified object within a mass surrounded by perifocal infiltration (Picture 1b-d). The patient underwent explorative laparotomy and resection of cecum (Picture 2a), the terminal ileum (Picture 2b) and an appendiceal mass (Picture 2c) with a one-centimeter-sized, sharp bone-like material (Picture 2, arrow). A histological examination confirmed the presence of suppurative appendicitis with local peritonitis and identified the bony fragment to be an appendiceal foreign body. The patient tolerated the operation without complications and was quickly discharged.

The ingestion of foreign bodies is not rare in clinical practice; however, patients may forget such a history. Most
ingested foreign bodies pass through the alimentary tract without inducing symptoms and are rare causes of appendicitis. Complications usually occur in patients who ingest sharp, thin, stiff, pointed and long objects (1). The presence of appendicitis or other complications should be ruled out in patients with a history of ingestion of bony fragments.

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Reference


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