Gastric Ulcer Caused by the Retention of Rice Cakes

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Key words: gastric ulcer, rice cakes

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.54.2760)

A 60-year-old man admitted to our hospital complained of abdominal pain and black stools. One month earlier, he had swallowed two pieces of boiled rice cakes without adequately chewing the food due to a loss of teeth. He had no history of taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Anti-\textit{H. pylori} IgG antibodies were negative.

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Received for publication February 24, 2014; Accepted for publication May 14, 2014
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computed tomography examination showed two high-density objects 3 cm in diameter in the stomach, one of which appeared to be lodged in the gastric antrum (Picture 1). Urgent esophagastroduodenoscopy (EGD) revealed two pieces of rice cakes and a deep ulcer in the antrum (Picture 2, 3). We cut the rice cakes into small pieces with a polypectomy snare, and the patient’s symptoms immediately improved. Repeat EGD showed that the rice cakes had passed from the stomach and that the ulcer was beginning to heal.

Rice cakes are popular in various Asian countries. Although cases of rice cake-induced ileus have been reported in Japan (1), such a large gastric ulcer resulting from the ingestion of rice cakes has not been previously reported. It is thought that insufficient chewing of boiled rice cakes can lead to ulcer formation following mechanical and thermal stimulation (2).

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References