Two Separate Layers of Liquid in the Stomach

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Key words: kerosene, suicide

A 93-year-old woman presented to our hospital emergency unit complaining of a decline in consciousness. Her blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, and respiration rate were within normal ranges. We found no abnormalities on a physical examination. However, we noticed an odor of kerosene emanating from her body. The patient’s family informed the attending clinicians that she had mentioned attempting suicide a few days prior. The same morning as her visit to hospital, she had gone to the barn before she lost consciousness. Computed tomography (CT) revealed two separate layers of liquid in her stomach at the pulmonary window setting. The CT numbers of the layers were 296 and 46 HU (Picture A and B) (1). We suspected that she had attempted to commit suicide by drinking kerosene. She was transferred to the hospital’s intensive-care unit and underwent gastroendoscopy and colonoscopy. She suffered no damage to the mucosal membranes. She was discharged and is doing well one year after the episode.

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

Reference


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