

A Rare Foreign Body: A Mouse Entrapped in the Adult Esophagus

P. L. Ren
Division of Gastroenterology,
Department of Internal Medicine,
Cheng Ching Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan

Corresponding Author

P.-L. Ren, M.D., M.P.H.
Division of Gastroenterology,
Department of Internal Medicine
609 Ta-Yin Street
Taichung
Taiwan
R.O.C.
Fax: + 886-4-23270383
E-mail: peilung@ms19.hinet.net

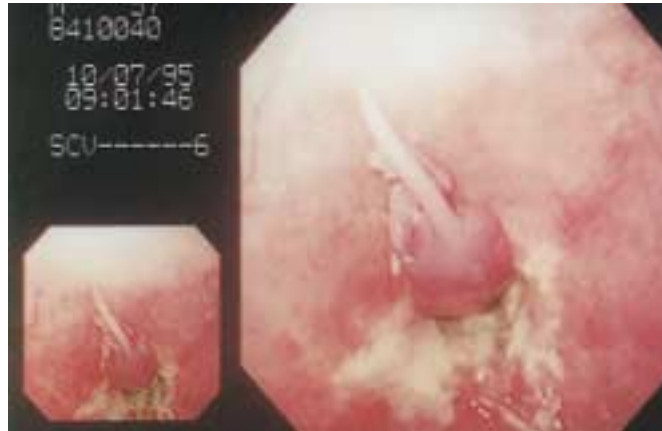


Figure 1 A foreign body entrapped in the esophagus is a rare finding in adults. It is usually associated with organic lesions, such as anastomotic narrowing or motor disorder. This particular 56-year-old man was suffering from epidermoid esophageal carcinoma. He had received a short course of radiotherapy, but later decided to investigate Chinese traditional therapy. He ate mice alive in the belief that a living mouse could dig through the narrow and rigid esophagus and thereby improve his dysphagia symptoms. After he had previously eaten 86 mice, a mouse became entrapped at the gastroesophageal junction. The mouse was removed using endoscopic foreign-body forceps. The endoscopic image shows the mouse and its tail, trapped at the narrow lumen of the gastroesophageal junction.