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Foreign body punctured the spleen: An incidental diagnosis

Gizem Inal-Aslan, Ibrahim Otgun, Lutfi Hakan Guney and **Akgun Hicsonmez** Baskent University, Turkey

Poreign body (FB) aspiration and ingestion are not uncommon in children and sharp FBs can also enter the body by penetration. As these latter cases are rare, the diagnosis can be challenging without a history of penetration. Herein, we present an infant with a sharp FB that punctured the spleen after penetration through the skin of the subscapular area. A sixmonth-old male was admitted to the hospital with the complaint of constipation. His physical examination was normal. The X-ray showed a FB (needle) located in the left upper quadrant of the abdomen. It was assumed that the FB was located in the stomach, an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was performed but it showed no evidence of FB in the stomach. Computerized tomography was then performed and revealed that the FB was localized in the splenic parenchyma. His physical examination was repeated and a lesion thought to be the entrance site of the needle was found on the left subscapular area. The psychosocial status of the family was not relevant with regard to possible child abuse by the parents or other psychological disorders. After informing the family, an exploratory laparotomy was done and a 21G syringe needle, which was broken, found in the splenic parenchyma. The sharp end of the needle faced anteriorly and was located laterally and superficially in the spleen. It was removed with a forceps. There was no active bleeding. The postoperative follow-up was uneventful and the patient was discharged on the second postoperative day.

gizmoluk@hotmail.com