Fishing For Answers: An Uncommon Cause of a Gastric Perforation

Tara Ranjbar, MD[1]; Kiara Singer, DO[1]; Valentina Lara Erazo, MD[1]; Kyungseo Yoon, MD[1]; Calista Kee, BS[2]; Ricky Lovell, BS[2]; Rachel Tran, MD[1]; Matthew Baker, DO[1]; Indraneil Mukherjee, MD[1]; Parth Patel, MD[1]

1: Northwell Health Staten Island University Hospital, 2: CUNY School of Medicine

Introduction

- Gastric perforation: a breach in the stomach wall allows contents to leak into the abdominal cavity
- Causes: Peptic ulcer disease, trauma, malignancy, foreign body ingestion
- Rarely, sharp objects like fish bones can penetrate the gastrointestinal tract, leading to perforation

Case Presentation

- **Patient:** 24-year-old male with no prior medical history.
- **Symptoms:** Progressive epigastric pain starting two days after last oral intake.
- **History:** Denied recent ingestion of foreign bodies or fish (no fish for over a month)

Imaging

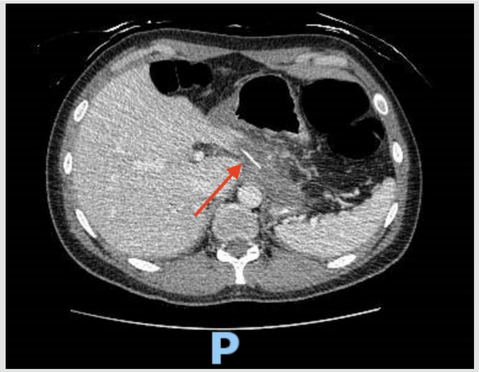


Figure 1 CT Scan:

- 2.5 cm linear dense structure along the lesser curvature of the stomach
- Associated fat stranding and inflammation, concerning for foreign body and gastric perforation

Surgical Management : Robotic Assisted Diagnostic Laparoscopy

- **Findings:** 3 cm foreign body (figure 2) within an abscess cavity in the left liver lobe, likely migrating from the stomach (figure 3)
- **Intervention:**
  - Foreign body removal.
  - Abdominal irrigation
  - Endoscopy with negative leak test (suggesting spontaneous perforation seal
  - Placement of two Jackson-Pratt drains (sub-gastric and between stomach/liver).

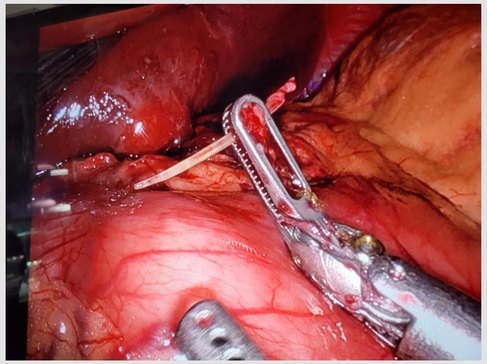


Figure 2: 3 cm fishbone seen on diagnostic laparoscopy

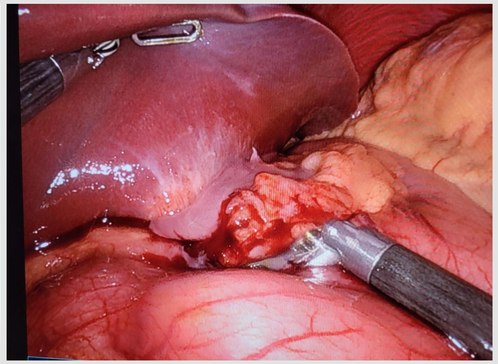


Figure 3: Fishbone originating likely from stomach into left liver lobe

Conclusion

- Foreign body-induced gastric perforations are rare but can have severe outcomes if not addressed promptly
- A high index of suspicion, coupled with swift surgical action, can ensure favorable patient recovery

Discussion

- This case highlights the importance of early diagnosis and prompt surgical management in foreign body-induced gastric perforations
- Even without a clear history of ingestion, imaging and timely intervention are crucial to prevent life-threatening complications