

Endoscopic Removal of an Unusual Foreign Body in the Nasopharynx in a 3-Year-Old Child

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Reporting a rare case of impacted foreign body (wood piece) in the nasopharynx in a 3-year-old female child of 6 cm size and its endoscopic removal.

Case report: A 3-year-old female child was brought by her parents with history of purulent right nasal discharge, nasal obstruction and fever for the past 3 months. Anterior rhinoscopic examination shows purulent right nasal discharge. Diagnostic endoscopy showed a foreign body in the nasopharynx. Under GA using nasal endoscope a foreign body was found to be wooden piece and the same was removed. The removed foreign body was measured and found to be of 6 cm in size. Postoperative period was uneventful.

Conclusion: Foreign body of 6 cm size in the nasopharynx in a 3-year-old child has not been reported in 'world medical literature'. This case has been reported due to its rarity, difficulty in diagnosis and removal.

Keywords: Nasopharynx, Wood piece, Nasal endoscope, Foreign body.

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INTRODUCTION

Nasal foreign body impaction is a common problem in pediatric population. The highest incidence of nasal foreign bodies is seen in the age group of 2 to 4 years. Children are more affected because they have tendency to put anything in the nose or by their playmates. A variety of animate and inanimate foreign bodies have been reported. These include rubber pieces, buttons, small stones, toys, paper, foam, chalk, nuts, grams, beads, peas and groundnut seeds. The site of impaction and management is interesting. Foreign bodies are impacted in all the passages including nose, ear and throat, but foreign body in the nasopharynx are very rare. The probable route of impaction of foreign body is through nasal route and later impacted and unnoticed in nasopharynx. It is also advised whenever a child comes with unilateral foul smelling discharge from nose, until proven otherwise there is a foreign body in nose. X-rays are usually diagnostic for radiopaque foreign bodies. Several techniques for removing nasal foreign bodies have been described. Removal is often attempted by curved right angel hook, suction or foley's balloon catheter.¹ Nowadays nasal endoscope becomes a

good tool for diagnosis and management of nonradiopaque foreign bodies in nose and nasopharynx.

CASE REPORT

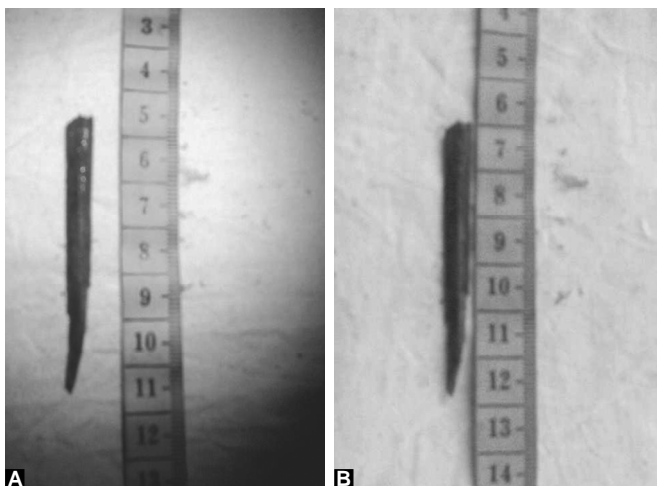
Three-year-old female child was brought by her parents with history of purulent right nasal discharge, nasal obstruction and on and off fever for the past 3 months. Anterior rhinoscopic examination shows purulent right nasal discharge. X-ray PNS and nasopharynx shows no clue toward diagnosis. Under monitored anesthesia, a diagnostic nasal endoscopy was done which showed a foreign body impacted from right middle meatus to nasopharynx. Under GA using 0° nasal endoscope a foreign body was found to be wooden piece, disimpacted, pushed into the oral cavity and removed. The removed foreign body was measured and found to be of 6 cm size (Figs 1A and B). Postoperative period was uneventful. This size of foreign body (6 cm) in nasopharynx in a 3-year-old child has not been reported in medical literature.

DISCUSSION

This case has been reported due to its rarity, difficulty in diagnosis and removal. Foreign bodies are rarely seen in the nasopharynx, though they are usually found in pediatric population in air and food passages. In this case history suggests child resides adjacent to carpenters house. Carpenters use such type of wooden pieces (foreign body) to prepare benches and chairs at the edges. Majumder et al² reported a case where a coin was found in the nasopharynx of a 2-year-old child. Gendeh BS and Gibb AG³ reported a case of wood piece impaction in the nasopharynx and its removal. Gautam Bir Singh et al⁴ reported a case of sewing needle impaction in the nasopharynx and its removal by nasal endoscope. The endoscopic approach provides better visualization, enabled meticulous manipulation, removal of foreign body and reduced intraoperative and postoperative complications.

SUMMARY

- This case is reported because of its rarity, difficulty in diagnosis and its removal.
- This paper describes a rare foreign body in nasopharynx of an unusual size, shape, site and age.
- Safe to use an nasal endoscope for the foreign body removal under general anesthesia.



Figs 1A and B: Wooden piece of 6 cm size, removed from the nasopharynx

- In the presented case surgical treatment consisted of endoscopic removal of the foreign body under general anesthesia.

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