Author’s response to reviews

Title: Esophageal and Small Bowel Obstruction by Occupational Bezoar: Report of a Case

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REPLY TO REVIEWER COMMENTS

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Reviewer: Basil J J Ammori

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

Interesting case report!

MAJOR COMMENT:

The authors suggested in their concluding paragraph the avoidance of 'certain kinds of fibre'. Which kinds of fibre? Please specify.

AGREE with the reviewer. The following was added in the concluding paragraph. "...patients who have undergone a previous gastric surgery should avoid certain kinds of fiber in their diet (e.g., fruit, usually citrus, and vegetable fibers), and are advised to take protective measures against similar occupational exposures (e.g., wood dust)."

MINOR COMMENTS:

The following alterations are suggested to improve the English and readability of the article:

- ABSTRACT:
- Background-Last sentence: Intestinal obstruction .... "has" (instead of 'have') not been reported.
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

- Case Presentation-Third sentence: 'He had undergone a vagotomy and pyloroplasty 10 years earlier.'
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

- CASE PRESENTATION:

- First sentence: complained "of" (instead of 'about')
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

- First paragraph-Last sentence: vagotomy and pyloroplasty'. (instead of 'pyloroplasty and vagotomy')
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

- Second paragraph-Third sentence: Vomiting continued and 'the' dysphagia 'worsened'.
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

- Second paragraph- join and shorthen the 4th & 5th sentences: The patient then underwent 'an' upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, 'which'showed (Fig 1).
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE. The sentence now reads: "The patient then underwent an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy (using Olympus GIF-V2, Olympus Optical Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan), which showed a foreign body (dimensions: 1.5cm long, 2.8cm in diameter), which was then endoscopically removed using a dormia basket (Fig. 1)."

- Third paragraph- 1st sentence: delete 'so he was kept in the hospital for further examination'.
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

- Third paragraph-2nd sentence: 'developed' instead of 'felt', 'repeat X-ray' instead of 'new X-ray'.
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

The remainder of the 3rd paragraph may read better as follows: 'He was then transefrred to the surgical team, where failure of a few days of conservative treatment necessitated an exploratory laparotomy. The laparotomy revealed a complete distal ileal obstruction secondary to a solid intrluminal foreign body (dimensions ....), which was removed through an enterotomy (Figs. 3 and 4). Pathological examination of the foreign body revealed a composition similar to that removed from the esophagus (Fig. 2b). The patient was discharged on the 8th postoperative day, and has remained well at 18 months follow up.'
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

- DISCUSSION:

- 1 st paragaph-Line 6: 'into' the bowel, rather than 'in' the bowel.
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.
The remainder of the 1st paragraph may better read as follows: 'Obstruction from phytobezoars usually occurs in the ileum or jejunum, and it is unusual for reverse migration of the bezoar to the esophagus to occur and result in obstruction as occurred in our patient [5,6]. Some of the pathogenic mechanisms responsible for bezoar formation in patients with previous vagotomy and pyloroplasty include decreased secretion of hydrochloric acid, decreased gastric motility (atonic stomach), and occupational exposure [1,2,4].

AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

2nd paragraph- 1st & 2nd sentences might read better as follows: 'Whilst bezoars located in the esophagus or stomach should be treated conservatively in the first instance [3], those causing acute intestinal obstruction clearly require surgical intervention [1,3,4].'

AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

Page 6, line 21: while the rest "migrated" from the stomach ...
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

Page 6, Line 22: replace 'moved to the' with 'and into' ...

AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

Page 7-Line 3: Delete the first sentence of the paragraph 'This is a rare case ...... as this has been stated earlier in the Discussion.
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

Page 7, Line 8: 'workers' instead of 'worker'.
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.

Page 7, Line 11: replace 'also' with 'are advised to'.
AGREE, THE REVISION WAS MADE.