Reviewer’s report

Title: Retention of foreign body in the gut can be a sign of congenital obstructive anomaly: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 9 May 2008

Reviewer: Serafino Vanella

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 criteria for evaluation in the journal: New associations or variations in disease processes

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The case presentation is very interesting but, in the introduction, the Authors don’t give any information about the retained foreign body’s size (that could reveal an obstructive congenital anomaly).

In the case presentation, the Authors write that during surgery they detected lots of debris, including berry seeds, lodged in the duodenum, with the metallic pendant.

The debris can impact with the foreign body and they can go to a total obstruction.

The “double bubble sign”, that showed the duodenal obstruction, is a late target.

The ingestion of foreign bodies such as coins, fish bones, plastic toy parts, batteries, and needles is common in children. Although the majority of ingested foreign bodies pass through the gastrointestinal tract unaided, some children require either nonsurgical or surgical intervention.

The most common site of foreign body lodgement is the esophagus, other sites
include the stomach and duodenum.

Endoscopic removal of foreign bodies under general anesthesia is an effective and safe method in children; the method also prevents erosion and perforation of the gastrointestinal tract.

Surgery or endoscopy are essentially required in cases whose follow-up period exceed 4 days, independent to the location of foreign body.

The endoscopy can show obstructive congenital anomaly signs.

The Authors used no recent references.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests