Author’s response to reviews

Title: Apple, condom, and cocaine: a case report of body-stuffing in prison

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

We would like to thank you for reviewing this paper and you constructive comments, giving us the possibility of publishing this interesting and out of the ordinary case report.

We have addressed, point by point, all of your comments and have highlighted our modifications in yellow in the revised manuscript. You will also find our modifications in our response below to facilitate your review process.

We thank you for kind help and look forward to receiving your reply.

Kind Regards,

Benedicte Jalbert, M.D. on behalf of all co-authors
Department of General Internal Medicine, Geneva University Hospitals and Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Switzerland
Dear Dr Jalbert,

Your manuscript "Apple, condom, and cocaine: a case report of body-stuffing in prison" (JMCR-D-17-00804) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in Journal of Medical Case Reports, once you have carried out some essential revisions suggested by our reviewers.

Their reports, together with any other comments, are below. Please also take a moment to check our website at http://jmcr.edmgr.com/ for any additional comments that were saved as attachments.

Once you have made the necessary corrections, please submit a revised manuscript online at:

http://jmcr.edmgr.com/

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Please include a point-by-point response within the 'Response to Reviewers' box in the submission system and highlight (with 'tracked changes'/coloured/underlines/highlighted text) all changes made when revising the manuscript. Please ensure you describe additional experiments that were carried out and include a detailed rebuttal of any criticisms or requested revisions that you disagreed with. Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found in the Submission Guidelines on the journal homepage.

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By resubmitting your manuscript you confirm that all author details on the revised version are correct, that all authors have agreed to authorship and order of authorship for this manuscript and that all authors have the appropriate permissions and rights to the reported data.

Please be aware that we may investigate, or ask your institute to investigate, any unauthorised attempts to change authorship or discrepancies in authorship between the submitted and revised versions of your manuscript.

The due date for submitting the revised version of your article is 14 Jan 2018.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript soon.

Best wishes,

Itzhak Brook
Journal of Medical Case Reports
https://jmedicalcasereports.biomedcentral.com/

Reviewer reports:
The manuscript requires an additional revision.

At the end of the Introduction there is a need to add a paragraph that explains why this case report is presented (what is unique and adds to the medical knowledge).

Authors’ response: we have added a paragraph as advised on page 4: We present this case report to shed light on some of the particular and confusing circumstances that can be found when managing body stuffers. Our report demonstrates that a six hour observation period can be insufficient and that CT findings must be correlated with the patient’s story in order to determine the severity of the situation.

More information is needed: Give complete past medical, social, family, and environmental history. What was the patient’s occupation? What medications was the patient on prior to diagnosis? Did the patient smoke, and/or consume alcohol?

Authors’ response on page 4: He had no medical or mental health conditions and did not take any medication. He has two older siblings, had dropped out of school at a young age and was living with his mother at the time of incarceration. He used to smoke tobacco and cannabis, which he stopped two years ago, consumed cocaine and Ecstasy until six months before his incarceration, and drank alcohol occasionally without reporting any binge drinking.

Give detailed physical and neurological examination on admission. What was the temperature, pulse, blood pressure and temperature, on admission?

Authors’ response on page 5: On admission, his vital signs were as follows: blood pressure of 131/60 mmHg, heart rate of 74 beats/min, temperature of 37.6°C. The rest of the
examination was unremarkable, including the cardio-pulmonary and a complete neurological exam.

Give all results of laboratory findings (i.e. CBC, liver and renal functions), urinalysis, serology, microbiology etc) Give information about follow-up for at least 6 months.

- Authors’ response on page 5 and 6: Laboratory findings were within normal range, including a complete blood count (hemoglobin of 16.2 g/dL, white cell count of 8.5 G/L, platelets of 121 G/L), kidney and liver function tests, and a urinalysis. Tests for HIV and Hepatitis B were negative.
- The outpatient follow-up in the prison health service was unremarkable. The patient was released from detention two months after surgery and further follow-up was not possible.

In the Discussion – Start with summarizing the case and describe what is unique in this case compared to what is available in the literature.

Authors’ response on page 7: This is the case of a young man who ingested apple chunks to help with the expulsion of a cocaine packet, which was eventually removed by laparoscopic gastrotomy.

The manuscript requires extensive editing for English language and grammar.

- Authors’ response: The manuscript was thoroughly reedited for English language and grammar by two different English editors.

Please respond to each comment in your cover letter and highlight the changes you made in response to them in the manuscript.

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Please also take a moment to check our website at http://jmcr.edmgr.com/L.asp?i=134674&l=BEA8YDMU for any additional comments that were saved as attachments. Please note that as Journal of Medical Case Reports has a policy of open peer review, you will be able to see the names of the reviewers.

If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested, you should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English. If you would like professional help in revising this manuscript, you can use any reputable English language editing service. We can recommend our affiliates Nature Research Editing Service (http://bit.ly/NRES-HS) and American Journal Experts (http://bit.ly/AJE-HS) for help with English usage. Please note that use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of publication. Free assistance is available from our English language tutorial (https://www.springer.com/gb/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/writinginenglish) and our Writing resources (http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/writing-resources). These cover common mistakes that occur when writing in English.