Tooth Crown Foreign Body Appendicitis

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A 75-year-old man presented with a 3-day history of worsening right iliac fossa pain. He had inadvertently swallowed his acrylic tooth crown 10 days previously. Clinical examination revealed he was pyrexial (38.1), tachycardic and had features of localized peritonitis in the right iliac fossa.

A plain abdominal radiograph (fig. 1) showed no features of bowel obstruction and a possible foreign body in the right iliac fossa. A computer tomography (CT) scan (fig. 2, 3), performed to rule out a caecal lesion, showed features of appendicitis and confirmed a foreign body in the appendix lumen.

Fig. 1. Plain abdominal radiograph showing a radiopaque object in the right iliac fossa.

Fig. 2. Coronal view on CT showing a foreign body in the base of an inflamed appendix.

Fig. 3. Sagittal view on CT.

An appendectomy was performed for an inflamed, gangrenous appendix. A foreign body tooth crown was retrieved from the inflamed appendix base and the lumen was closed with a continuous vicryl stitch. The patient's postoperative period was unremarkable and he was discharged 2 days later.

Ingested foreign bodies present in the appendix lumen causing appendicitis are a rare cause of appendicitis with a prevalence of only 0.0005% [1–4]. Focused history taking and diagnosis using plain radiography or CT is useful.

References

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