

Fishbone perforation of Meckel's diverticulum: An unusual case of right iliac fossa pain

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Case Report

A 45 year old soldier was air evacuated with complaints of acute onset pain abdomen for the last one day. Patient developed sudden onset peri-umbilical pain followed by two episodes of bilious vomiting. The pain over a period of one day got localized to the right iliac fossa.

On clinical evaluation, the patient's vitals were stable except for mild tachycardia and low grade fever. Abdomen was not distended and rebound tenderness was present in the region of the right iliac fossa. His hematological and biochemical parameters were essentially normal. A clinical diagnosis of acute appendicitis was made and patient was taken up for emergency appendectomy.

Grid iron incision was made and the peritoneum was incised. On exploration, however, the appendix was essentially normal. On searching the terminal ileum, a Meckel's diverticulum was delivered. Protruding out from the diverticulum was a fish bone of size 3.5 cms. The fish bone had successfully traveled down till the

IN BRIEF

Perforation of a Meckel's diverticulum by a foreign body is a rare occurrence and can mimic. A 45 year old gentleman presented with signs and symptoms suggestive of acute appendicitis and a decision was taken to operate the patient. On exploration, the appendix was found to be normal and a fish bone was seen to be protruding through the Meckel's diverticulum. The diverticulum was resected and end to end anastomosis was done. Patient had an uneventful recovery

diverticulum and got stuck in the abnormal anatomy. The sharp end of the bone perforated the diverticulum and caused local peritoneal signs of peritonism, mimicking appendicitis. The diverticulum along with the normal gut was excised and a hand sewn double layered side to side ileo-ileal anastomosis was done through the same incision. The patient recovered satisfactorily and discharged on the tenth day.

Discussion

Meckel's diverticulum is found in 2 or 3 per cent of all cases coming to autopsy. It is said to be more common in males than in females, the ratio being about 3:1. Around 100 cases of foreign body perforation of Meckel's diverticulum have been reported in the literature. The youngest case was reported in an 18 month old child whereas the oldest case was reported in a 75 year old gentleman¹⁻⁸.

In the majority of perforations, history of an ingested foreign body was lacking and operation usually was done on the basis of a diagnosis of appendicitis. In those cases where foreign body ingestion was known it was correctly implicated as the cause of symptoms prior to operation¹⁻³. Fish bone was the commonest cause of Meckel's diverticulum perforation^{2,7}.

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Figure 1: Fishbone protruding through the Meckel's diverticulum

