A 22-year-old man was admitted to the emergency department reporting insertion of a long foreign body into his anus 6 hours previously. Physical examination showed no signs of peritonitis. An abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan showed the foreign body in the descending colon and proximal rectum, with no signs of perforation (Fig. 1). Emergent endoscopy was performed and showed that the foreign body was 35 cm from the anus and completely obstructing the bowel lumen (Fig. 2).

We used a polypectomy snare and grasping forceps in succession to attempt to remove the foreign body but failed, despite several attempts, owing to the limited space between the foreign body and the bowel wall, and the slippery surface of the foreign body. Subsequently, we inserted two balloons (one at the proximal end of the foreign body and the other at the distal end) under fluoroscopic guidance (Fig. 3), and were able to pull the foreign body out by about 5 cm. Although further movement could not be achieved using this method, it did create more space between the foreign body and the bowel lumen. We then returned to the combination of the snare and grasping forceps to extract the foreign body (Fig. 4). Finally, the foreign body was grasped by the snare and then extracted easily (Video 1). The foreign body was about 46 cm in length and 3.5 cm in diameter (Fig. 5). The patient was discharged on the same day, with no further discomfort.

Snares are commonly used to extract long foreign bodies [1]; however, in some cases, the procedure can be difficult because of the location, size, shape, or other features of the foreign body, meaning grasping forceps or balloons may play an unexpected role [2, 3]. As presented in this case, a combination of two or more devices may achieve better results if a single approach does not work.
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The authors

Yilong Feng*, Nianhong Wu*, Liansong Ye, Xianglei Yuan, Bing Hu
Department of Gastroenterology, West China Hospital, Sichuan University, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

* These authors contributed equally to this work.

Corresponding author

Bing Hu, MD
No. 37 Guo Xue Alley, Wu Hou District, Chengdu City, 610041, Sichuan Province, China
hubingnj@163.com

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