A 34-year-old woman was referred to the emergency department of our hospital with persistent epigastric pain for 2 days. Abdominal computed tomography (CT) scanning showed an 18-mm high density shadow in the gastric antrum, consistent with suspected penetration of the gastric wall (Fig. 1). Gastroscopy however showed no obvious foreign body (Fig. 2). The patient was still suffering from abdominal pain. We speculated that a foreign body might have completely imbedded into the submucosa or even the gastric serosal layer, which would make it more difficult to detect.
We therefore proceeded to endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) and found a cordlike hyperechoic shadow in the submucosa of the gastric antrum (▶Fig. 3a). Because there was a risk of perforation if the foreign body was not removed in a timely fashion, a special endoscopic operation was immediately arranged for the patient.

Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) is regarded as a common treatment for complete resection of early gastrointestinal neoplasms [1]. ESD-assisted removal of a submucosal foreign body in the stomach has rarely been reported [2]. After the lesion had been precisely located and marked using EUS, the submucosa and muscularis were carefully separated with a FlushKnife (Fujifilm) (▶Fig. 3b) and an iron wire was discovered that was deeply imbedded into the muscularis (▶Fig. 3c). The iron wire was carefully clamped with a foreign body forceps (Olympus) and gently pulled out (▶Fig. 3d, e; ▶Video 1). The wound was closed with endoscopic clips and no bleeding was observed (▶Fig. 3f). The patient was discharged from hospital after 2 days of observation.

Buried submucosal foreign bodies in the stomach, although very rare, can cause serious complications. Endoscopic extraction of a gastric submucosal foreign body with precise location by EUS combined with ESD is safe and avoided the risks of major surgery, thereby minimizing trauma and economic losses.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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