A 60-year-old man presented to hospital with 3 days of epigastric pain after inadvertent ingestion of a fishbone. A computed tomography (CT) scan showed a hyperdense linear object measuring 5 cm that was embedded within the posterior wall of the stomach and extending towards the pancreas, in keeping with a perforating fishbone (Fig. 1). There was minimal free gas and no contrast leakage was noted on the scan. Given the location of the fishbone in the lesser sac, laparoscopic removal was thought to be technically challenging, so an attempt at endoscopic extraction was made to try to avoid him having to undergo a laparotomy.

At endoscopy (Video 1), no fishbone was visible in the lumen but a raised erythematous area was noted in the antrum (Fig. 2a). Endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) was performed with a linear array echoendoscope to identify the hyperechoic fishbone, which extended from the submucosa into the proximal body of the pancreas (Fig. 2b) with no evidence of pancreatic duct injury.

Under EUS guidance, a biopsy forceps was used to mark the mucosa overlying the fishbone. A modified endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) technique was then used to create a mucosal flap with a hook-knife (Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) after submucosal injection. The fishbone was identified after creating the mucosal flap and was grasped with a biopsy forceps and extracted (Fig. 3a–c). The fishbone measured 5 cm in length (Fig. 3d). A large defect in the muscularis propria was seen after extraction of the fishbone.
The mucosal flap was used to seal this and was closed with clips and secured with an endoloop. Intraprocedural contrast injection showed no evidence of leakage. A repeat CT scan of the abdomen the following day showed no further foreign body within the stomach and no contrast leakage, and the patient was discharged 2 days later.

Competing interests: None

Christopher Lim1, Peter Cosman1,2, Milan Bassan1,3
1 Department of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery, Liverpool Hospital, New South Wales, Australia
2 University of New South Wales, Australia
3 Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Liverpool Hospital, New South Wales, Australia

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DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0042-117423
Endoscopy 2016; 48: E323–E324
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
Milan Bassan, MBBS, FRACP
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Liverpool Hospital
New South Wales
Australia
milan.bassan@gmail.com

Lim Christopher et al. Management of pancreas-perforating gastric foreign body... Endoscopy 2016; 48: E323–E324