

Surgical intervention for capsule endoscope retained at ileal stricture

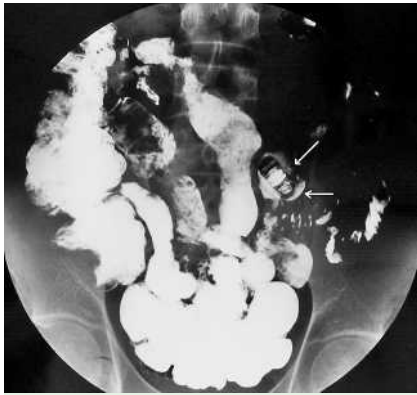


Fig. 1 Capsule endoscope impacted at ileal stricture.



Fig. 2 Retained capsule as seen in abdominal plain X-ray film.

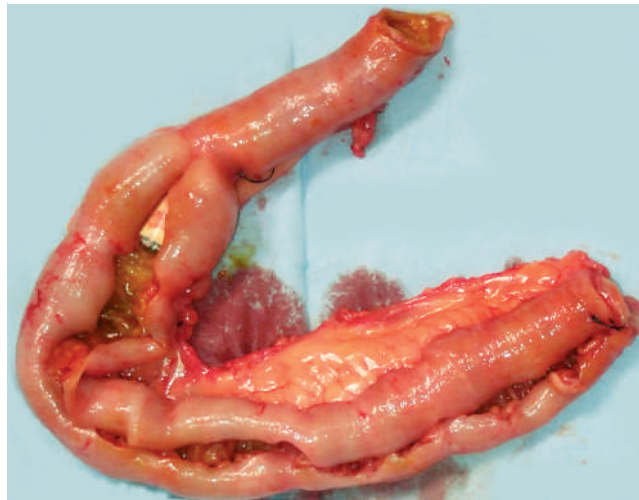


Fig. 3 Capsule endoscope retained at ileal stricture confirmed by surgery.

Capsule endoscopy is an invaluable, safe examination for the small bowel [1]. We report a case of operation for a capsule endoscope retained at an ileal stricture in a patient with multiple ileal strictures. A 37-year-old man presented with a 3-year history of abdominal pain, gastrointestinal bleeding, and intermittent incomplete ileus. He underwent comprehensive investigations including gastroscopy, colonoscopy, and computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen at a tertiary medical center elsewhere, and the findings were unremarkable. Capsule endoscopy was carried out to investigate the small bowel for any potential cause of the symptoms. After ingestion of the capsule, the patient was found to have multiple small-bowel diverticulosis, and he did not see the capsule pass in the stool. Three weeks later he developed intermittent attacks of abdominal pain. Barium examination of the small bowel revealed the capsule endoscope impacted at an ileal stenosis (● Fig. 1). The patient was referred to our hospital for further evaluation. We inserted a double-balloon enteroscope anally and found the capsule endoscopy trapped on the oral side of a severe ileal stenosis. Owing to the severe stenosis we failed to retrieve the capsule endoscope. Four days later, the patient's abdominal symptoms worsened and X-ray plain film revealed incomplete ileus and a metallic density within it (● Fig. 2). After consultation with a senior general surgeon, the patient was scheduled to undergo operative interven-

tion. The operation went smoothly and a diagnosis of Crohn's disease was confirmed (● Fig. 3).

Tanaka et al. reported successful retrieval of a capsule endoscope retained at an ileal stenosis in Crohn's disease using double-balloon endoscopy [2], confirming that double-balloon endoscopy may be the best method by which to retrieve a retained capsule endoscope because it is able to reach the whole gut. Thus, if a capsule endoscope is impacted, it may be retrieved safely by endoscopy; but because endoscopy is unable to deal with irreversible intestinal stenosis, when concomitant ileus is present, surgery should be considered.

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Bibliography

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