

Ingestion of gelatinous candy, mimicking acute gastric bleeding

Galloo, Xavier; Vander Kuylen, Maarten; Tosi, Maurizio; De Mey, Johan; Raeymaeckers, Steven

Published in:
Clinical Case Reports

DOI:
[10.1002/ccr3.2867](https://doi.org/10.1002/ccr3.2867)

Publication date:
2020

License:
CC BY

Document Version:
Final published version

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Galloo, X., Vander Kuylen, M., Tosi, M., De Mey, J., & Raeymaeckers, S. (2020). Ingestion of gelatinous candy, mimicking acute gastric bleeding. *Clinical Case Reports*, 8(8), 1588-1589. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ccr3.2867>





Copyright

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, without the prior written permission of the author(s) or other rights holders to whom publication rights have been transferred, unless permitted by a license attached to the publication (a Creative Commons license or other), or unless exceptions to copyright law apply.

Take down policy

If you believe that this document infringes your copyright or other rights, please contact openaccess@vub.be, with details of the nature of the infringement. We will investigate the claim and if justified, we will take the appropriate steps.

Ingestion of gelatinous candy, mimicking acute gastric bleeding

Xavier Galloo¹  | Maarten Vander Kuylen² | Maurizio Tosi³  | Johan De Mey⁴  | Steven Raeymaeckers⁴ 

¹Department of Cardiology, UZ Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

²Department of Surgery, UZ Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

³Department of Anesthesiology, UZ Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

⁴Department of Radiology, UZ Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

Correspondence

Xavier Galloo, Department of Cardiology, UZ Brussel, Laarbeeklaan 101, 1090 Jette, Belgium.

Email: Xavier.Galloo@uzbrussel.be

Abstract

A detailed medical history is vital in the correct interpretation of medical images: Peer-to-peer feedback and a thorough medical history can help avoid diagnostic pitfalls and unnecessary therapy.

KEYWORDS

abdominal computed tomography, acute appendicitis, emergency radiology, gastric bleeding, gelatinous candy

A 37-year-old woman presented with pain in the right iliac fossa. The clinician withheld the diagnosis of appendicitis. Contrast-enhanced CT confirmed an engorged appendix with diffuse contrast-enhancement, suggestive of acute appendicitis. Incidentally, however, the scan also revealed a homogeneous dense thick lining on the bottom of the stomach (Figure 1). The measured density of this layer fluctuated

between 270 and 320 Hounsfield Units; values incidentally matching those of iodine contrast. No series of images had been acquired prior to the administration of IV-contrast. The radiologist suggested an arterial bleeding of the gastric mucosa. The patient was re-examined and then remembered having consumed some gelatinous candy in the waiting room, just prior to being scanned. A bag of said gummy bears was

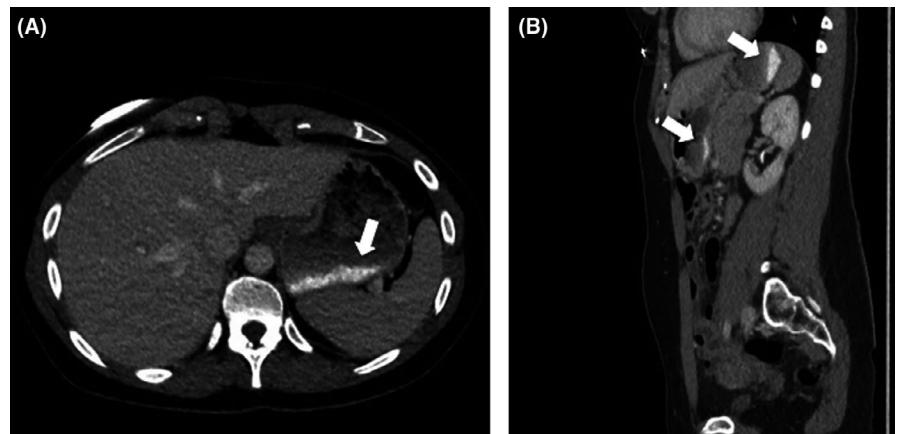


FIGURE 1 Contrast-enhanced CT, axial (A) and sagittal (B) images. The bottom of the stomach is lined with an intensely dense content (270–320 Hounsfield Units, white arrows), matching the density of iodine contrast

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

© 2020 The Authors. *Clinical Case Reports* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd

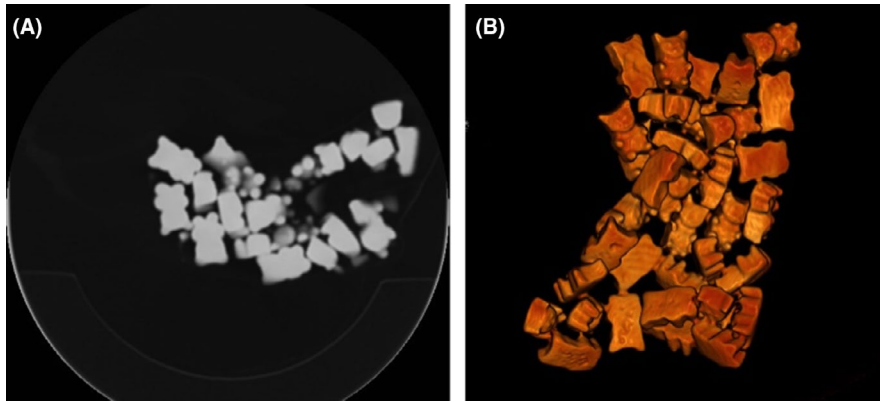


FIGURE 2 Noncontrast-enhanced CT of a bag of gummy bear sweets, axial (A) and 3D reconstruction (B). Note the spontaneous dense aspect of the sweets

put in the scanner and indeed found to possess a comparable density to the collection found in her stomach (Figure 2). Quickly dissolved after ingestion, gelatine appears to settle as a thick layer on the bottom of the stomach.¹ As no precontrast imaging was performed in light of radiation dose sparing, this then mimicked a stomach bleeding on the contrast-enhanced images. Peer-to-peer feedback between radiologist and clinician as well as a full medical history spared this patient unnecessary therapy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None declared.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

XG: authored and revised the text. MVK: coauthored the text. MT: researched the literature. JDM: supervised and approved the article. SR: authored and revised the text, made the images, and supervised the article.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

No approval warranted.

INFORMED CONSENT

Informed consent was obtained from the patient included in the manuscript.

ORCID

Xavier Galloo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6294-7668>

Maurizio Tosi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7518-8675>

Johan De Mey  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3601-3212>

Steven Raeymaeckers  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0822-1919>

[org/0000-0003-0822-1919](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0822-1919)

REFERENCE

1. Karasick SR, Magilner AD. Unintentional opacification of the stomach during computed tomography following ingestion of jelly candy. *J Comput Assist Tomogr.* 1982;6(1):184-185.

How to cite this article: Galloo X, Vander Kuylen M, Tosi M, De Mey J, Raeymaeckers S. Ingestion of gelatinous candy, mimicking acute gastric bleeding. *Clin Case Rep.* 2020;00:1-2. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ccr3.2867>