

Jalapeño bezoar obstruction of the small intestine

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Description

Sixty-three-year-old male patient presented with complaint of central abdominal cramping for four days and nausea and vomiting on the day of presentation. He reported having undergone small bowel resection one-year prior at an unknown facility, which he believed to be due to ischemic bowel. Upper gastrointestinal series radiographs and abdominal Computed Tomography (CT) were suspicious for small bowel obstruction at the previous small bowel anastomosis with small bowel fecalization.

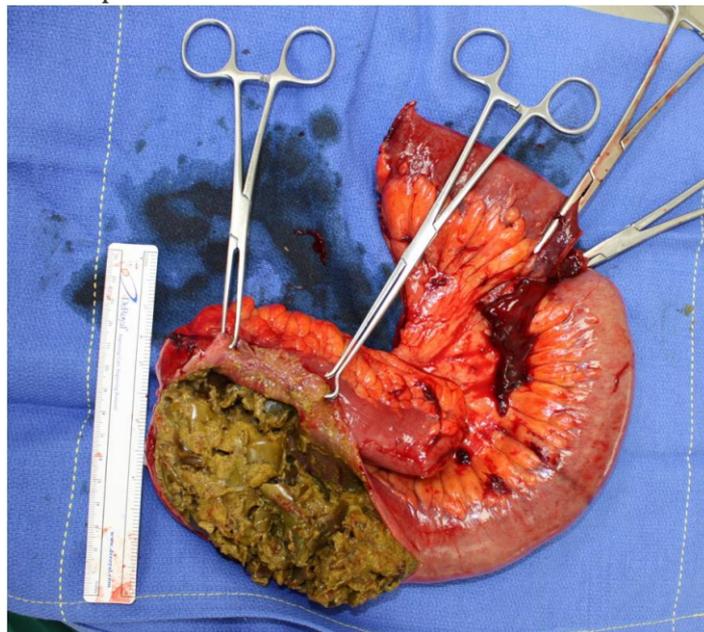


Figure 1: Forty-five centimeter segment of resected jejunum, demonstrating anastomosis from previous bowel resection (black arrow), where jalapeño bezoar was found (white star).

Due to continued lack of clinical progression, with continued nausea and vomiting, the patient underwent exploratory laparotomy. Inspection of the bowel revealed a patent previously performed anastomosis in the jejunum, with large volumes of unknown material obstructing the previous anastomosis, unable to manually progress past the anastomosis. Concern for patency of this anastomosis prompted resection of a forty-five centimeter segment of jejunum. The specimen was opened on the back table revealing a large volume of intact vegetable material at the anastomosis (Figure 1). Operative findings were discussed with the patient's wife who reported the patient enjoys eating jalapeño peppers, last consuming them four weeks prior. As the patient was edentulous, a conclusion was made that his condition resulted from poor mastication and immediate referral to dental services for dentures was made.

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