

## Oral or Rectal Foreign Body – A Case of Intoxication

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### SUMMARY

A 49 years of age lady with history of depression, presented to hospital, with alcohol intoxication, dehydration, vomiting, and complaint of abdominal pain. She was fluid resuscitated with alcohol detoxification. Abdominal X-ray showed foreign body in distal bowel. On inquiry she admitted swallowing car key disc battery, and was concerned for her wellbeing, hence called the ambulance. Repeat imaging did not show foreign body. Patient was assured no further concerns and was referred to the Psychiatry team.



**Figure 1:** Plain Abdominal X-ray antero-posterior view, showing round opaque foreign body in distal bowel (Red arrow), queried for disc battery (Inset).

Incidence of disc battery ingestions increased from 1% of cases in 1990 to 18% of cases in 2008. Oesophageal damage can occur in 2-2.5 hours (Langkau et al) [1].

Disc batteries successfully traversing oesophagus pass through gastrointestinal tract in short period of time: 23% within 24 hours, 61% within 48 hours, 78% within 72 hours, and 86% within 96 hours. Only 1% of batteries take more than 2 weeks (Litovitz et al) [2].  
**Keywords:** Car key disc battery; foreign body; Intoxication.

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