Medical Image of the Week: Healthcare-associated Pneumonia Secondary to Aspiration

Figure 1. Panel A: Axial computed-tomography image demonstrating a foreign body within the right main-stem bronchus, with consolidation and volume loss of right lung. Panel B: Coronal view.

Figure 2. Panel A: bronchoscopy revealing an ingested foreign body in the right main-stem bronchus. Panel B: forceps retrieval yielded a large piece of broccoli.

A 57 year-old bedbound paraplegic man developed a worsening productive cough after being hospitalized for several days. He was brought to the radiology suite for a CT scan of the chest, revealing a soft tissue density within his right main-stem bronchus, with volume loss of his right lung (Figure 1). Bronchoscopy was performed, yielding a 2 cm piece of broccoli, successfully removed with forceps (Figure 2). Culture from the bronchial aspirate was positive for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The patient's respiratory status dramatically improved after removal of the foreign body and commencement of pathogen-directed antibiotics. This study illustrates a dramatic example of healthcare-associated

pneumonia (HCAP) secondary to aspiration, as described by the American Thoracic Society / Infectious Diseases Society of America (1).

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Reference

1. American Thoracic Society; Infectious Diseases Society of America. Guidelines for the management of adults with hospital-acquired, ventilator-associated, and healthcare-associated pneumonia. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2005;171(4):388-416. [\[CrossRef\]](#) [\[PubMed\]](#)