Unusual Foreign Body in the Neck

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Abstract

An unusual FB. (broken end of a metallic knife) in the neck is reported. The case is considered as unusual because no history of FB entering into the neck during the injury was available and the wound over the FB was healed. In addition, patient was otherwise asymptomatic, the reason why the diagnosis was delayed.
In most cases of foreign body in the neck history and findings are relatively obvious. There are very few reports in the literature of a large Foreign Body in the neck with no clear history of Foreign Body entering the neck and an inconspicuous wound of entry on examination.

Case Report

AM, 16 years old female off the roof of her house, on 12.3.1996 on examination there was a small wound on the left side of the neck below the jaw, with minimum bleeding and neck stiffness continued to increase over the days. There was no history of lincconsciousness. The family doctor referred her to an orthopaedic surgeon on 15.3.96. The orthopaedic Surgeon could not find any significant wound or abnormality and diagnosed her as a "Hyperextension neck injury". He ordered for an X-ray. An Opaque shadow on the X-ray was dismissed as artifact. He put her on hard bed and ordered for a cervical collar.

On 23.3.1996 she reported with increasing stiffness in her neck. The patient was otherwise stable. Vitals were maintained. Ther was no wound in the neck on inspection. No abnormality could be detected on palpation. The head was kept fixed. Mouth,