

Right Flank Pain in a Man: Renal Stone or Needle in the Liver?

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A 41-year-old man was admitted to the hospital with a three-day history of dysuria and right flank pain. Physical examination revealed tenderness at the right costo-vertebral angle. Urolithiasis was suspected but abdominal X-ray showed a foreign body resembling a packing needle in the region of the liver (Figure 1). Abdominal tomography (Figure 2) and ultrasonography revealed right pelvicaliceal dilatation and a needle lodged in the right lobe of the liver. The proximal part of the needle was broken and located in the posterior curve of the liver. The patient said that he had never swallowed a needle, but that he had undergone surgery for the removal of another packing needle from under the skin of the right lower quadrant when he was seven. He did not give further details. He reported having no complaints before the ones related to his present visit. He was scheduled for follow-up visits without surgery, and two days later he passed a urinary stone and became free of symptoms.



Figure 1. A foreign body resembling a packing needle in the region of the liver

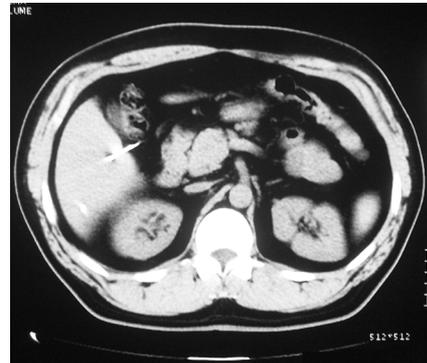


Figure 2. Abdominal tomography revealed right pelvicaliceal dilatation and a needle lodged in the right lobe of the liver

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