

# An Unusual Cause of Gastrointestinal Bleeding: Blister Pack

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A 67-year-old man was admitted to the hospital with a history of epigastric pain for the previous two weeks and black stools for the previous week. He had a long-term history of hypertension and was receiving atenolol 50 mg daily. On physical examination he had abdominal tenderness in the epigastrium, and rectal examination revealed melena. Laboratory findings were normal except for the presence of hypochromic anemia with a hemoglobin level of 11.7 g/dl and a mean corpuscular volume of 77.0 fl. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed fresh and digested blood in the body of the stomach and a sharp-angled foreign body in the antrum (Figure 1). This was grasped and manipulated with a snare. Upon removal from the patient it was realized that the object was a one-tablet section of a blister pack (Figure 2). The patient recalled having inadvertently swallowed his antihypertensive tablet without removing it from its blister pack approximately 15 days before.



Figure 2. A one-tablet section of a blister pack



Figure 1. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed fresh and digested blood in the body of the stomach and a sharp-angled foreign body in the antrum

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