

Publication

A body-packer with a cocaine bag stuck in the stomach

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 1002511

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Year 2011

Title A body-packer with a cocaine bag stuck in the stomach

Journal World journal of radiology

Volume 3 Number 6

Pages / Article-Number 155-8

Management of patients carrying packets of drugs in the digestive tract is a frequent medical problem. We report on a patient who was referred by the police after ingestion of packets of cocaine. After spontaneous elimination of 81 drug packets, the patient had three unremarkable stools. A plain abdominal X-ray disclosed no residual packet but computed tomography (CT) scan showed one in the stomach. As this was not eliminated during the 10 d following ingestion, it was removed through gastrotomy. This case stresses the usefulness of the CT scan to ensure that no residual packet is present before hospital discharge.

Publisher Beijing Baishideng BioMed Scientific Co.

ISSN/ISBN 1949-8470

edoc-URL http://edoc.unibas.ch/dok/A6070173

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.4329/wjr.v3.i6.155

PubMed ID http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21860710

ISI-Number MEDLINE:21860710

Document type (ISI) Journal Article