

UROLITHIASIS ON NON-ABSORBABLE SUTURE MATERIAL: A RARE CASE OF BLADDER STONE ON POLYPROPYLENE SUTURE MATERIAL

Dear Sir,

I read the article by Mannan et al with great interest.⁽¹⁾ The authors have presented several interesting cases from Pakistan regarding foreign bodies in the bladder, which is a significant contribution to the literature. However, there were no cases of polypropylene suture encrustation in bladder in the series. We would like to report a rare case from Turkey, in which a bladder stone was formed by a non-absorbable suture in a female patient with a previous hysterectomy.

A 59-year-old woman had a hysterectomy for myoma uteri six years ago. She visited our outpatient clinic with complaints of dysuria, suprapubic pain and gross haematuria for several days. We performed a physical examination as well as laboratory and radiological evaluations. The urine test demonstrated significant cristaluria and microscopic haematuria. In the kidney ureter bladder radiography examination, a milimetric opacity at the bladder zone was observed (Fig. 1) and ultrasonography revealed an echogenity at the roof of the bladder (Fig. 2). In the light of these findings, we reached a diagnosis of bladder stone and scheduled a cystoscopic evaluation.

After endoscopic disintegration of the stone, endoscopic lithotripsy was performed with a pneumatic lithotripter. Following lithotripsy, a non-absorbable suture was seen (Fig. 3). Endoscopic resection was performed, and the non-absorbable suture was resected using a 24F resectoscope. The patient was discharged on the Day 3 post surgery with a urinary catheter, which was removed on Day 7 post surgery.



Fig. 1 Kidney ureter bladder radiograph shows a bladder stone (arrow).



Fig. 2 US image shows echogenity at the roof of the bladder.

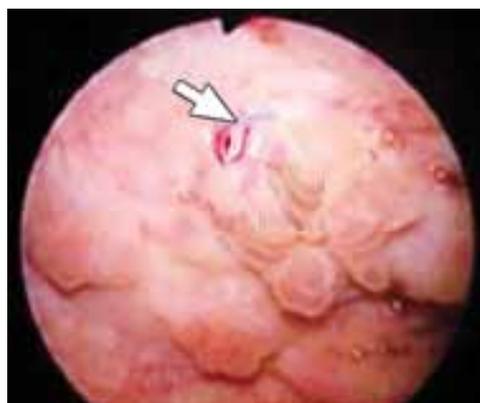


Fig. 3 Endoscopic image shows the polypropylene suture (arrow).

Females account for only 2% of all patients with bladder stones caused by bladder outlet obstruction. Bladder stones occur more frequently in the male population, with the frequency of occurrence increasing yearly after 50 years of age.⁽²⁾ Although studies have reported that monofilament polypropylene sutures do not cause such reactions, a bladder stone was found on the non-absorbable polypropylene suture in our patient.⁽³⁾ According to some studies, most foreign bodies in the bladder are prone to stone formation on the bladder wall, but they seldom form into a stone within the bladder.^(1,4,5) However, our patient had an intact bladder wall, and the bladder stone appeared normal and had no evidence of enclosure by a foreign body.

Yours sincerely,

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Editor's note: Mannan et al have declined to comment on the above letter.