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## Clinical Image

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# A case of accidental dental prosthesis ingestion

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## Description

A sixty years old patient was admitted to our intensive rehabilitation department after a right nucleo-capsular hemorrhagic stroke. He was affected by hypertension, paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, recent infective pneumonia. The day after admission missing of upper fixed dental prosthesis was noticed during neurological evaluation. The patient was asymptomatic with normal oxygen saturation while breathing in ambient air. An urgent chest x-ray was performed. Displaced dental prosthesis at hypo-pharynx tract was noticed. Endoscopic extraction of the foreign body was performed without complications and the patient was able to continue his rehabilitative course.

Aspiration or ingestion of foreign bodies is not uncommon in the adult population [1]. It has been suggested that foreign body aspiration or swallowing is more frequent in selected groups including elderly, psychotics, alcohol/drug abusersand

neurologic patients [2,3]. The more commonly swallowed foreign bodies among adults are fish bones (9–45%), bones other than fish bones (8–40%), and dentures (4–18%) [3]. The delay in diagnosis can result in significant morbidity. Ifundetected, retained foreign bodies can lead to significantedema that causes obstruction or perforation, or both [4]. Ingested foreign bodies progress through the digestive tract spontaneously in 80–90% of cases; however, 10–20% of patients require endoscopy for removal, and less than 1% undergo surgery [5].

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**Figure 1,2:** Antero-posterior and latero-lateral head view x-ray: Note the upper fixed dental prosthesis.

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**Figure 3,4:** Antero-posterior and latero-lateral view neck x-ray: Displaced dental prosthesis at hypo-pharynx tract.

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