

**Clinical Image***Open Access, Volume 3***A toothpick's tale****Ana Duarte Mendes\***; Renata Ribeiro; Marta Amaral<sup>1</sup>Oncology Department Hospital Fernando da Fonseca, Amadora, Portugal.<sup>2</sup>Internal Medicine Department, Hospital Prof. Dr. Fernando da Fonseca, Amadora, Portugal.**\*Corresponding Author: Ana Duarte Mendes**

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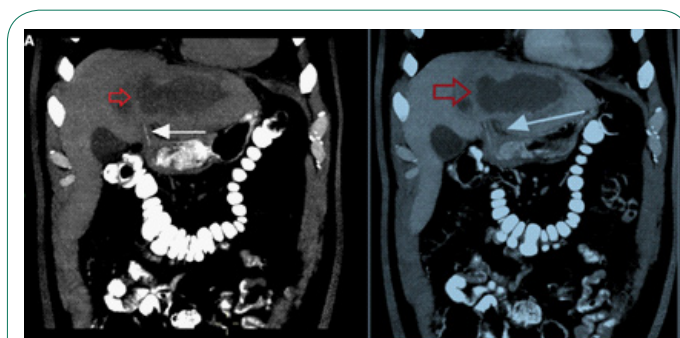
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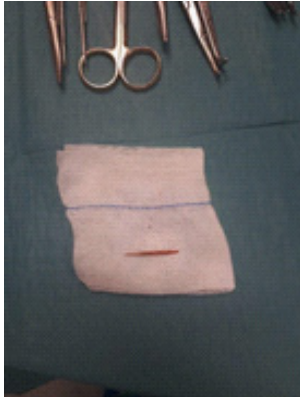
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**Clinical image description**

A 68-year-old man presented to the emergency department with a 2-week history of fever, shivering and general malaise. Physical examination was otherwise unremarkable. Laboratory findings showed elevation of C-reactive protein (33 mg/dL), aspartate and alanine aminotransferase (89 and 120 U/L, respectively). A computed tomographic scan showed a large mass on the left hepatic lobe compatible with an abscess (Panels A, red arrow). Further viewing of the images confirmed the perforation of the digestive tract by a foreign body (Panels A, white arrow) and its migration through the gastroduodenal wall. These findings were confirmed by laparoscopy with the extraction of a toothpick (Panel B) and drainage of the abscess. Fever resolved and the patient was asymptomatic at discharge. Pyogenic liver abscess constitutes an infrequent clinical condition presenting a diagnostic challenge to physicians. Ingestion of a foreign body represents an even more rare cause of this clinical entity.



**Figure 1:** A computed tomographic scan showed a large mass on the left hepatic lobe compatible with an abscess (Panels A, red arrow). Further viewing of the images confirmed the perforation of the digestive tract by a foreign body (Panels A, white arrow) and its migration through the gastroduodenal wall.



**Figure 2:** Laparoscopy with the extraction of a toothpick.